Community Communications:

Thursday, March 12, 2020

Dear Parent(s) and Guardian(s):

The Public Schools of Northborough and Southborough will be closed tomorrow, March 13, 2020. It is essential to share that there are no COVID-19 presumptive positive cases in The Public Schools of Northborough and Southborough and that the closure is out of an abundance of caution and to provide the custodial staff time once again to clean the buildings. The current plan is to re-open on Monday morning, March 16, 2020. I will send out a communication if this plan changes.

We will continue to closely monitor this situation and follow the guidance of our local Boards of Health, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH), the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

Lastly, I want to communicate that DESE has determined that the last day of school for the Northborough Public Schools, Southborough Public Schools and Algonquin Regional High School this year will be Tuesday, June 23, 2020, the 185th day scheduled on the 2019-2020 Student Calendar.

Respectfully,

Gregory L. Martineau
Superintendent of Schools
March 10, 2020

Dear Parent(s) and Guardian(s):

Early today, Tuesday, March 10, 2020, Governor Charlie Baker announced a Declaration of a State of Emergency to respond to COVID-19. Several parents asked if this changes the District's response to COVID-19. The Governor's Declaration does not require any immediate actions for The Public Schools of Northborough and Southborough, and all schools will be open tomorrow. Governor Baker stated that the Declaration was intended to give the state government "more flexibility to respond to the developing outbreak."

The District is, however, suspending all school-related out of state travel until further notice. Additionally, the District has inventoried all school-based and club field trips and non-essential school events and is reviewing this list frequently to determine whether or not to cancel field trips and non-essential school events. Individual schools will provide notification to families if a field trip or event is canceled. This review will continue until the State of Emergency is lifted. If you are interested in learning more about a State of Emergency and what it means, please visit https://www.mass.gov/service-details/state-of-emergency-information.

The District is working closely with the Northborough and Southborough Boards of Health, Northborough and Southborough town officials, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) and is implementing the recommended DPH and CDC guidelines.

The safety and well-being of our students, staff, and community are our highest priority. If you have any questions, please reach out to the building principal or Mary Ellen Duggan, District Wellness Coordinator.

Respectfully,

Gregory L. Martineau
Superintendent of Schools

Mary Ellen Duggan, RN
Wellness Coordinator

Dr. Safdar Medina
School Physician

March 6, 2020

Dear Parent(s) and Guardian(s):

The Public Schools of Northborough and Southborough, out of an abundance of caution, have made a proactive decision to fully deep clean and sanitize all school buildings this weekend, March 7 and 8, 2020. I want to thank the facilities teams for their continued diligence cleaning and sanitizing the schools. The District will continue to work closely with the Northborough and Southborough Boards of Health, Northborough and Southborough town officials, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) and will implement any new procedures or guidelines to keep staff and students safe.

Please continue to promote and employ the prevention measures recommended by the CDC, and the DPH, which include:

- Washing hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, if unable to wash, using alcohol-based hand sanitizers;
- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth;
- Covering your coughs or sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve (not with your hands);
- Staying away from people who are sick and stay home when you are sick; and,
- Being fever-free for at least 24 hours (without fever-reducing medicine) before returning to school/work.
March 4, 2020

Dear Parent(s) and Guardian(s):

This afternoon, Wednesday, March 4, 2020 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued an updated Travel Health Alert for all United States residents, instructing travelers returning from countries with a Level 3 alert (currently China, South Korea, Iran, and Italy) to stay home and monitor their health for 14 days after returning to the US. This guidance also instructs travelers returning from countries with a Level 2 alert (currently Japan) to monitor their health and limit interactions with others for 14 days after returning to the US. In addition, the guidance advises against any non-essential travel to Level 3 countries.

The Public Schools of Northborough and Southborough are asking parents or guardians of students who may have recently traveled to any of these countries (China, South Korea, Iran, Italy or Japan), to please notify Mary Ellen Duggan, District Wellness Coordinator at mduggan@nsboro.k12.ma.us or 508-486-5115 x 71254 for guidance.

Lastly, Governor Baker has requested that all high schools suspend international travel for the time being. Algonquin Regional High School does not sponsor international trips.

Please continue to promote and employ the prevention measures recommended by the CDC, and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH), which include:

- Washing hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, if unable to wash, using alcohol-based hand sanitizers;
- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth;
- Covering your coughs or sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve (not with your hands);
- Staying away from people who are sick and stay home when you are sick; and,
- Being fever-free for at least 24 hours (without fever-reducing medicine) before returning to school/work.

Respectfully,

Gregory L. Martineau  
Superintendent of Schools

Mary Ellen Duggan RN  
Wellness Coordinator

Dr. Safdar Medina  
School Physician

For more information

CDC travel link: https://www.mass.gov/info-details/travel-information-related-to-covid-19
March 4, 2020

Dear Parent(s) and Guardian(s):

The Public Schools of Northborough and Southborough are closely monitoring updates on the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). The District continues to be in communication with the Northborough and Southborough Boards of Health, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH), the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), and Dr. Safdar Medina, the District’s School Physician.

The District is promoting and following the prevention measures recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH), which include:

- Washing hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, if unable to wash, using alcohol-based hand sanitizers;
- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth;
- Covering your coughs or sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve (not with your hands);
- Staying away from people who are sick and stay home when you are sick; and,
- Being fever-free for at least 24 hours (without fever-reducing medicine) before returning to school/work.

Our School Facilities Department is vigilantly cleaning and sanitizing our educational spaces by:

- Cleaning hard surfaces (desks, tables, countertops, sinks).
- Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces (door handles, faucets, railings), bathrooms and health rooms. (using EPA-approved disinfectants)
- Using “EPA-approved” disinfectant to clean high-touch surfaces and patient care areas

In addition, the District’s school bus transportation provider, North Reading Transportation (NRT), is following cleaning protocols on all buses.

Lastly, the District is reviewing its School Safety Protocols to ensure we are prepared to respond as new information and guidance evolves. Thank you for helping us keep our students and school personnel healthy and safe.

Respectfully,

Gregory L. Martineau  
Superintendent of Schools

Mary Ellen Duggan  
Wellness Coordinator

Dr. Safdar Medina  
School Physician

For more information

DPH website is updated constantly with the latest guidance, including printable fact sheets in multiple languages.  

February 27, 2020

Dear Parent(s) and Guardian(s),

Many families have questions regarding the recent outbreak of the Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) and how it may impact our school communities. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is providing daily updates and recommendations (CDC Link: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html). The CDC continues to report that the immediate risk to the general public remains low, at this time. However, the Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) is an evolving situation that we are monitoring closely and will continue to update families as information is shared with us. We are in close communication with the local Board of Health, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH), The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), and Dr. Medina, the District Physician. It is important to note that Massachusetts residents are much more likely to become sick with a cold or the flu than to be exposed to COVID-19. Many of the precautions that help prevent colds and the flu can also help protect against other respiratory viruses. There are general precautions that our school nurses, the DPH, and CDC recommend:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, if unable to wash, use alcohol-based hand sanitizers;
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth;
- Cover your coughs or sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve (not with your hands);
- Stay away from people who are sick and stay home when you are sick, and;
- Be fever-free for at least 24 hours (without fever-reducing medicine) before returning to school/work.

Furthermore, Our School Facilities Department is vigilantly sanitizing our educational spaces as we typically do during the cold and flu season.

Thank you for helping to keep our students and school personnel healthy and safe. We will endeavor to keep families updated as new information becomes available.

Respectfully,

Gregory L. Martineau          Mary Ellen Duggan          Dr. Safdar Medina
Superintendent of Schools     Wellness Coordinator        School Physician

For more information

DPH Website is updated constantly with the latest guidance, including printable fact sheets in multiple languages. [www.mass.gov/2019coronavirus](http://www.mass.gov/2019coronavirus).