

LOWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Henry J. Mroz Central Administration Offices
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Joel D. Boyd, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

March 5, 2020

Dear Lowell Public Schools Families,

The safety of our students and staff is always our top priority within the Lowell Public Schools, and we are continuing to closely monitor developments in regards to the Coronavirus (now known as COVID-19). We want to provide you with an update to our informational letter about COVID-19, which was sent on March 3.

Out of an abundance of caution, and given the recommendations of Governor Baker, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, the Lowell Health Department, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), **we are canceling school-organized international trips for student groups until further notice.**

The CDC recommends that you avoid all nonessential travel to destinations with level 3 travel notices (currently China, Iran, Italy and South Korea) because of the risk of getting COVID-19. The CDC advises that travelers from a level 3 country stay home and monitor their health for 14 days after returning to the United States.

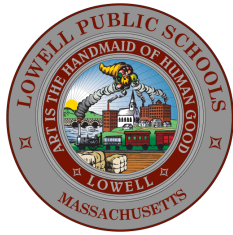
As of sharing this message, **the immediate risk to Lowell and to all Massachusetts residents still remains low, and there are still no confirmed cases in the city,** according to the Lowell Health Department.

As part of the ongoing preventative efforts taken by the Lowell Public Schools to combat the spread of seasonal illnesses, additional disinfecting treatments have been added and will continue to be scheduled in all schools. As we shared previously, there are also a number of steps that students, staff and community members can take to minimize the spread of illness. Please find that information from the Lowell Health Department on the second page of this letter.

We continue to follow guidance from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Lowell Health Department, and will continue to keep you updated as new information becomes available. If you have any questions about COVID-19, please feel free to follow up with the Lowell Health Department at 978-674-4010, or contact your school's nurse.

Sincerely,

Dr. Joel D. Boyd



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Information from the Lowell Health Department

Coronaviruses are respiratory viruses and are generally spread from person-to-person, when an infected person coughs or sneezes, similar to the flu.

The symptoms of this infection include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing

Protect yourself and others:

- Wash your hands often and thoroughly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Avoid touching your mouth, nose, and eyes with unwashed hands
- Cover your coughs or sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve (not with your hands)
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Clean and disinfect surface area frequently
- Stay home from work or school if you are sick

These are the same recommendations that we would encourage residents to practice in order to stay healthy during any flu or respiratory virus.

We encourage residents to review the CDC website for virus information, situation updates, and prevention and treatment methods at www.cdc.gov/nCov. There is also information available from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, which can be found at www.mass.gov/2019coronavirus.