



LOWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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Joel D. Boyd, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

March 11, 2020

Dear Lowell Public Schools Families,

As a district, we continue to closely monitor developments with the Coronavirus (now known as COVID-19), and we continue to follow guidance from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, and the Lowell Health Department.

We understand many members of the Lowell Public Schools community may have questions or concerns in regards to COVID-19, so we want to keep you updated throughout this situation. The safety - including the health - of our students and staff is our top concern.

Governor Baker declared a State of Emergency on March 10, giving his administration more flexibility in responding to a COVID-19 outbreak. However, as of writing this, the immediate risk to Lowell residents still remains low, and there are still no confirmed cases in the city, according to the Lowell Health Department.

At this time, there is no recommendation from state or local agencies to close school. We are still following normal school routines. The Lowell Public Schools are still open. We will continue to monitor the situation, and review attendance policies and the possibility of closing school if the need should arise. We will notify you if the status changes.

Per the recommendation of Governor Baker and DESE, we are canceling any out-of-state domestic school-related travel. This is in addition to the cancelation of school-organized international trips for student groups that we told you about in our last COVID-19 update. Other school activities and events will continue to be held, for now, but DESE recommends that older community members and those at increased risk of illness avoid large school gatherings.

As part of the ongoing preventative efforts taken by the Lowell Public Schools to combat the spread of seasonal illnesses, additional disinfecting treatments, such as deploying disinfecting fogging/sprayer machines, have been added and will continue to be scheduled in all schools. Please see the attached document, or visit the COVID-19 page on our website, for more details. You will also be able to find tips on how to prevent the spread of disease and view other items of note.

This remains a very fluid situation. We will continue to stay in contact with our partners at the city and state level, and we will continue to keep you informed of any developments. Please check the Lowell Public Schools website and Facebook/Twitter pages for the most up-to-date information. If you have any additional 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