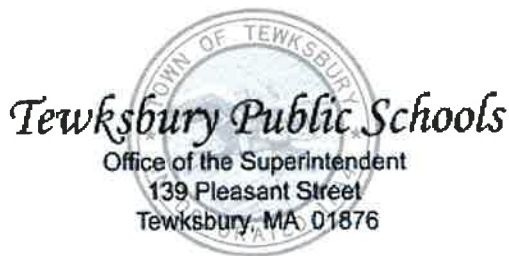


Christopher J. Malone, C.A.G.S.
Superintendent (978) 640-7800
cmalone@tewksbury.k12.ma.us

Brenda Theriault-Regan, C.A.G.S.
Assistant Superintendent (978) 640-7800
bregan@tewksbury.k12.ma.us



Celebrating Excellence



March 3, 2020

Dear Tewksbury Families and School Community,

As a follow up to the ongoing Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV), and in response to the ever-growing media attention, I wanted to take the opportunity to share with you an update. Tewksbury Public Schools continues to collaborate daily with the Town of Tewksbury Public Health Director who in turn coordinates regularly with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the CDC. We have instituted an enhanced school and bus cleaning protocol in line with CDC recommendations. We have updated Alternative Structured Learning planning to respond to the needs of students if need be (as recommended by the CDC but requiring MA DESE approval to implement). Our school nurses are coordinating through the lead nurse to the Town Public Health Director daily to ensure they are following all MPH and CDC recommendations regarding school community illness.

More importantly please remember, while this is a public health concern, the CDC continues to report that the immediate risk to the general public remains low at this time. As with seasonal flu and strep infections, there are general precautions we can all take to remain as healthy as possible. Practice good hand hygiene. Wash your hands often and thoroughly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands. Use Alcohol-based hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available.

- When coughing and sneezing, cover your mouth and nose with a tissue. You can also cough or sneeze into your sleeve. Throw used tissues in the trash and immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid sharing drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, dishes, towels or other items. Wash these items thoroughly with soap and water after use.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick whenever possible.
- Practice other good health habits: Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at home, work or school, especially when someone is ill. Get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids, and eat nutritious food.

Although TMHS participated in a trip to Italy over February vacation, please understand that the circumstances of that trip were different from some of the school trips from other schools in the area, some of which you may have heard of on the news. The dates, duration, and locations visited by other school trips, have been different in many cases from what our students experienced in February.

TPS District Strategy

The Tewksbury Public Schools community believes that our educational program will encompass a 21st century teaching and learning approach that promotes consistent growth among our students and staff to achieve academic, social, and emotional success for all students.

As a result, there is no CDC or DPH recommendation for their quarantine, but we will continue to monitor any changes in their guidance. Our TMHS students were screened (both in Italy and upon return to Boston) and have been regularly monitored, all this in accordance with CDC and DPH recommendations under that collaborative direction of our lead nurse and the Public Health Director.

Moving forward we will continue to coordinate directly through the Tewksbury Public Health Director, the MA DPH, and CDC to update any measures and respond to any need of our students, staff, and families. Although there is no guarantee that the Coronavirus will not effect Tewksbury, please know that Tewksbury Public Schools is working every day to keep our students and staff safe.

Sincerely,



Mr. Chris Malone
Superintendent of Schools

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