

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 9, 2020

Dear Tewksbury Families and School Community,

I would like to update you on Tewksbury Public Schools most recent planning and precautionary measures associated with the current Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. Please know that the School Department has been in constant contact with the Tewksbury Town Health Director and Town Manager to share information and collaboratively plan an approach to maximize student and staff safety. In addition, we participated in a joint Massachusetts Department of Public Health and Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education conference call regarding the impact of the virus on schools on Friday.

Currently, there are no cases of self-quarantine specific to Tewksbury Public Schools and we have passed the 14-day cautionary period with the students and staff from TMHS who participated in the school trip to Italy in February. Please remember this is a very fluid situation. With the amount of new cases in the state over the weekend, this information could change, but if it does, it would likely not be related to the school trip to Italy. If other cases or circumstances present themselves we will work under the CDC and MA DPH guidelines in conjunction with our local Public Health Director. As of Friday, some districts had dismissed entire schools or closed all schools, in response to presumptive cases being identified in their community. If this should occur in Tewksbury, we will immediately coordinate with our Public Health Director to examine the specifics of the situation and make the best decision possible for the safety of our students and staff. Dismissals and / or closing are certainly possibilities but would be made based on the facts and guidance at hand.

Currently, we are examining all planned student travel and field trips. Governor Baker has asked that all international student travel be canceled. We are also examining United States based travel and even smaller in-state field trips. We are attempting to balance smart decision making without creating unnecessary panic. Our own Public Health Department has advised us to "proceed with caution".

An enhanced cleaning plan for our schools was developed on 2/24/20 and began in operation on 2/25/20. We have utilized this plan in the past, specific to increased flu outbreaks, but have customized it to address the issue of Coronavirus. The following actions are part of our ongoing plan and will continue as long as necessary.

- Almost all of our custodians have been working overtime; including weekends, engaged in a deep clean of all schools utilizing CDC approved methods and products to address the Coronavirus issue.
- Additional cafeteria staff have been brought in to enhance cleaning of cafeteria surfaces before, after, and in between lunches with approved methods and products.
- We have acquired a Protexus electrostatic spray gun with approved and safe methods specific to Coronavirus prevention utilizing approved disinfecting and sanitizing solutions on larger areas at TMHS and have begun utilizing during non-school hours at all of our schools.

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.

- We have contracted with Nano Safety Solutions (a company we have worked with before specific to illness prevention in our locker rooms and athletic equipment) who have begun treatment of larger areas at TMHS (gym, locker rooms, bathrooms) and will continue throughout TMHS and then to our other schools. This treatment is Coronavirus specific, longer lasting, and safe.
- We have coordinated with our vendors and suppliers to ensure we are prepared to support this level of cleaning and preparedness with the products needed. Although there is no guarantee that there will not be a nationwide shortage of these materials, we have been proactive about ensuring that they have been ordered.

As always, we will make every effort to keep you informed as changes occur. We will continue to monitor this issue intently while keeping the safety of the students and staff as a priority. I apologize for the continuous messaging out but I believe we can all expect this situation to change rapidly over the next days and weeks.

Sincerely,



Mr. Chris Malone
Superintendent of Schools

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.