

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 12, 2020

Dear Tewksbury Families and School Community,

In an effort to keep all families and community members informed during this fluid and ever-changing event, I want to update you on the most recent developments specific to the Coronavirus and the impact on our schools.

Earlier today we were made aware by a Dewing Elementary School staff member that they had attended a large function in another town last week where there was likely a person present who has tested positive for Coronavirus. Although this potential contact has not been confirmed by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health or our local Public Health Department, and the staff member has displayed no symptoms, we want to proceed with an abundance of caution. After coordinating with our own Tewksbury Public Health Director and Town Manager, we have taken the action to send the staff member home to self-quarantine until further information can be determined if there was in fact any potential contact or to determine if they show any symptoms. We will continue to coordinate with MA DPH and our local Health Department to confirm we are taking all necessary steps to ensure student and staff safety. In addition, we will shift our maintenance team utilizing the Protexus electrostatic spray gun to specifically address the Dewing School tonight along with the enhanced cleaning process we have already undertaken. As of right now, in alignment with CDC and MA DPH guidelines, and after coordinating with the Tewksbury Public Health Director and Town Manager we will move forward with regular school operations at the Dewing Elementary School, and all of our schools. If the circumstances of this situation should change we will keep you informed.

As a result of yesterday's declaration by Governor Baker that Massachusetts is currently operating under a "State of Emergency" in relation to the concern around Coronavirus, I want to keep you aware of the impact that it will likely have on Tewksbury Public Schools. I have met with the Town Manager and Public Health Director several times over the past two days to ensure we have an informed approach.

- Upon Governor Baker and DESE Commissioner Riley's recommendation, all out-of-state student travel will be canceled.
- Larger group rentals or utilization of our facilities will be canceled in the short term and considered for cancellation in the long term.
- Field trips out of Tewksbury will be considered on a case-by-case basis and will likely be subject to cancellation or rescheduling.
- Indoor town-wide recreation activities (evenings and weekends) that take place in our schools will be subject to cancellation.
- All options will remain "on the table" to keep students and staff safe including dismissals and possible cancellations if necessary.

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 will continue to utilize our custodial, cafeteria, maintenance and outside vendor resources to enhance cleaning in all schools at night and through the weekends. We will continue to collaborate daily with the Tewksbury Public Health Director and Town Manager to ensure we are following CDC and MA DPH guidelines and making the best decisions possible to keep students, staff, and families safe. These are clearly uncertain times enhanced by significant media coverage and fluid conditions. My hope is that by keeping our school community well informed with accurate information we can all work together to provide the safest environment possible for our students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Malone".

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.