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Celebrating Excellence



March 4, 2020

Dear Tewksbury Families and School Community,

As a follow up to yesterday's communication regarding the Coronavirus, I want to make you aware of new developments specific to the TMHS trip to Europe over February vacation. Today, the Tewksbury Public Health Director, Susan Sawyer, informed us that the CDC and Massachusetts Department of Public Health have a new advisory for any person who traveled to Italy within the last 14 days that have drastically changed. The new recommendation from the CDC was delivered in a press conference by Governor Baker at noon today. The recommendations from the CDC are continually evolving and may continue to do so. The CDC recommendations are now as follows:

- Italy is experiencing widespread community transmission of respiratory illness caused by the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).
- CDC recommends that travelers avoid all nonessential travel.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions may be at increased risk for severe disease.
- Travelers should avoid contact with sick people and clean their hands often by washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with 60%–95% alcohol.

***New as of today**

- **Travelers should stay home and monitor their health during travel and for 14 days after returning to the United States.**
- Travelers who feel sick with fever or cough or difficulty breathing should seek medical advice. Call ahead before you go to a doctor's office or emergency room.

In addition, we were informed today by the MA DPH that there is likely a passenger, not related to our school trip, with a "presumptive case of COVID-19", on the same flight from Munich as our trip. After consulting with the Town Manager, the Town Nurse, the Tewksbury Director of Public Health and Carley Perez, an Epidemiologist from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, and out of an abundance of caution all students and staff who participated in the school trip to Italy will self-quarantine until March 7, 2020 and can return on March 9, 2020.

The CDC advisory covers only those individuals who traveled themselves to specific countries listed in the advisory <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/warning/coronavirus-italy>. This includes the countries of China, Iran, South Korea and Italy. Students or staff members (not family members) who traveled to these areas should inform their school and adhere to the 14 day self-quarantine as outlined in the above advisory.

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.

I certainly understand that this change in approach by the CDC can cause confusion and concern. In an effort to not overburden each individual school's operation, I would ask that if you have a concern or question regarding school operation to send it to me, cmalone@teewksbury.k12.ma.us, or if it is a medical question to the Tewksbury Town Health Director ssawyer@teewksbury-ma.gov.

Sincerely,

Chris Malone

Mr. Chris Malone
Superintendent of Schools

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