



Ben Lummis
Interim Superintendent

The Public Schools of Brookline
Town Hall
333 Washington Street, 5th Floor
Brookline, Massachusetts 02445
617.730.2401

Statement from the Public Schools of Brookline
March 11, 2020

Today the Brookline Department of Public Health informed us that a Lincoln School **parent** has tested positive for COVID-19. Neither the student nor any other family members have shown symptoms and they have been quarantined since March 6.

Lincoln School will be closed tomorrow (Thursday, March 12) and Friday, March 13 as a precautionary measure to allow us time to thoroughly clean and disinfect all communal areas and classroom spaces in the school. The school will reopen as normal on Monday morning, March 16.

We recognize that this news will cause disruption to the daily routine for Lincoln School families and staff, but we believe this is the best decision as we seek to protect the health of our students and staff.

For the purposes of the school calendar, these days will be treated as “snow days” and, by law, must be made up. These two school days will be made up on June 24 and June 25, 2020.

In addition to the Lincoln School closure, this evening we announced additional steps we are taking to reduce the risk of infection for our community.

Following the Town of Brookline’s announcement of the cancellation of all non-essential public meetings, **the Public Schools of Brookline will also cancel all non-essential evening meetings, gatherings, and community events in our school buildings effective immediately and through April 30, 2020.**

All field trips are also cancelled, effective immediately.

Here are some examples of events that are cancelled:

- Student performances (*for example, the Pierce Play and the Baker Play*)
- PTO meetings and other parent events (*for example, Drop Everything and Read at CCS or the K-2 Community Meeting at Driscoll*)
- SAT tests taking place at Brookline High School this Saturday, March 14
- Adult education classes
- Use of our buildings by non-school groups

We recognize that the cancellation of these events will come as a great disappointment to our school communities. Much hard work has gone into preparing for each of them. However, given the information available to us we believe this is the right decision.

Each school will seek to reschedule any cancelled events as appropriate based on further developments. In school activities such as assemblies for students that do not include parents or other adults will continue as planned.

Extended Day programs will continue to operate as normal, and any after school activity programs *for our school children* will continue to operate as normal. We don't expect major changes to the daily routine in our school buildings.

After school activities at Brookline High School will continue including athletics, rehearsals, and clubs, however we will not allow spectators at indoor events.

At this point meetings of the Brookline School Committee will continue and, as usual, will be broadcast on Brookline Interactive Group (BIG).

I want to close with a few reminders:

- Parents should keep their children home when they are sick, and staff should stay home when they don't feel well.
- If you or your child are sick, please stay home.
- Our school custodians continue to do a great job cleaning all of our schools buildings, including disinfecting high touch points on a daily basis.
- Our schools are fully stocked with soap, hand sanitizers, and paper towels and are continuing to get more supplies.
- Our nurses are informed of the protocols and procedures needed to safely respond to any symptoms of illness related to COVID-19.
- Please sign up for the [ALERT Brookline system](#) to make sure you receive emergency communications from the Town.

We continue to work closely with the Town's Department of Public Health to monitor the latest developments. I will continue to communicate with you to keep you informed. In addition, information and resources on COVID-19 can be accessed on our website [here](#).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ben Lummis', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ben Lummis
Interim Superintendent