



**Ben Lummis**

Interim Superintendent

**The Public Schools of Brookline**  
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March 6, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I want to take a moment to provide a brief update on our ongoing response to COVID-19 (coronavirus) here in the school district.

Following our announcement on Wednesday asking anyone to stay home and self-monitor if they have recently traveled to China, Iran, Italy or South Korea, we have had a limited number of students and staff that are remaining home due to recent travel. They are all non-symptomatic. We are very appreciative of everyone's cooperation in following this recommendation as one means of keeping our school community healthy and safe.

Our custodial staff is doing a great job cleaning our school buildings and disinfecting high touch points on a daily basis. In addition to their regular cleaning schedule of school bathrooms, water fountains, and common touchpoints, they are specifically focusing increased attention on cleaning and disinfecting high touch surfaces such as doorknobs, tables, and railings. Our schools are fully stocked with soap, hand sanitizer, and paper towels.

Our nurses are fully informed of the protocols needed to safely respond to any symptoms of illness related to COVID-19. **If your child or anyone in your family needs to stay home for self-monitoring or if you have questions about whether your child should be in school, we ask that you reach out to your school nurse.** I have attached a list of all school nurses and their phone numbers.

If you have any questions regarding a specific situation related to COVID-19, it is best to contact Brookline's Department of Public Health for guidance at (617) 730-2300.

- Please read the most recent press release from the [Brookline Department of Public Health](#) to keep up-to-date on the latest community information and guidance, including tips for home preparation.
- COVID-19 information from the Centers for Disease Control is available [here](#).

Please be assured that we are monitoring information from local and national health authorities and working closely with Brookline's Department of Public Health to make evidence-based decisions to keep our students and staff safe. We are actively working on protocols in case we need to close or cancel school, but at this point there is no reason to do so. All decisions about the safety of our schools will be made in consultation with Brookline's Director of Public Health. School department leaders are also members of the town's COVID-19 Task Force that is meeting regularly to ensure a coordinated response in Brookline.

As you know, this is a rapidly changing situation. We will continue to share pertinent school-related information with you as it becomes available to ensure the safety of our students and staff.

Sincerely,

Ben Lummis

Interim Superintendent