



The Public Schools of Brookline
Town Hall
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Brookline, Massachusetts 02445
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Ben Lummis
Interim Superintendent

March 4, 2020

Dear Families,

We are writing to share updated information from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) and the Brookline Department of Public Health related to COVID-19 (coronavirus).

The new recommendations affect those travelers who have returned, or will return, from travel to China, Iran, Italy or South Korea (the countries for whom there is a Level 3 travel advisory).

We are asking travelers who have returned from China, Iran, Italy or South Korea, or who will return from these four countries, to self-monitor* at home for 14 days upon entry into the United States.

This guidance does apply retroactively to travelers who have recently returned from these four countries.

If you, your child, or any member of your family returned from travel to one of these countries in the last 14 days, the travelers are requested to stay at home until 14 days have passed. This applies to your child even if they had previously been cleared to be in school.

- If you need to self-monitor your child, please call your child's school and let them know that they will be out due to the travel restrictions.
- If anyone in your family has recently traveled to these four countries, please monitor them for symptoms of fever, cough, shortness of breath or other respiratory symptoms. If symptoms appear, contact your health care provider. If you do not have a health care provider, contact a local emergency room and alert them to your child's symptoms. Please do not go to a hospital or health care provider without alerting them beforehand.

We would also like to take this opportunity to make sure you are aware of the steps we are taking in our schools to reduce the spread of viruses, including:

- Providing time for students to wash their hands during the school day
- Providing handwashing education for our students
- Continuing to follow our cleaning protocols in school buildings, and cleaning and disinfecting common touch points more regularly
- Continuing to work with the Brookline Department of Public Health through the town's COVID-19 Task Force to consider additional contingency plans should COVID-19 become prevalent in our community
- Reminding staff to stay home if they are sick

All of us can play an important part in keeping our school communities safe. Please remember to:

- Keep your child home if they are sick
- Wash your hands often, with soap and water, for 30-40 seconds
- Don't touch your eyes, nose or mouth
- Remind your child about the importance of good hand washing and cough practices

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick

If you have any specific questions please reach out to your school nurse who can help support you and your child.

For more information about COVID-19 please read the latest press release with additional information from the Town of Brookline Department of Public Health here <https://www.brooklinema.gov/1488/COVID-19-Coronavirus> as well as information from the CDC here www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html

As you know, this is a rapidly changing situation. We are closely monitoring advice from all public health authorities and will continue to share new information with you as it becomes available.

Sincerely,

Ben Lummis
Interim Superintendent

Tricia Laham
Coordinator of School Health Services

***Self-monitoring** means people should not go to work or to school, and should monitor themselves for fever by taking their temperatures twice a day and remain alert for cough or difficulty breathing. If they feel feverish or develop cough or difficulty breathing during the self-monitoring period, they should take their temperature, limit contact with others, and seek health advice by telephone from a healthcare provider or their local health department to determine whether medical evaluation is needed.