

Dear Holliston Parents/Guardians and Staff:

This email provides you with an update on the current status of Coronavirus preparation and response since my first email to you on February 27th.

1. The Health Director for the Town of Holliston, Scott Moles, Emergency Preparedness Director, Fire Chief Michael Cassidy, Town Administrator Jeff Ritter and I met this week to review the various advisories we have received from the CDC and Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH). We established a parallel reporting system into the DPH, brainstormed plans, options and discussed contingency planning. We have agreed to meet weekly for the foreseeable future.
2. The State of Massachusetts has ordered that all out-of-country school trips that are scheduled to take place before May 1st be cancelled. This order has no impact on the Holliston Public Schools as we don't have any trips planned that meet that criteria. While the Governor's orders are currently limited to only out-of-country trips scheduled taking place before May 1st, we are currently reviewing all of our plans for overnight trips currently scheduled to take place before June 30th, including:
 - a. HHS has a trip to Montreal scheduled for mid/late June. This trip is school-sponsored and we are currently reviewing the details of any Trip Insurance that was included as part of the cost of that trip to determine if there are any deadlines in that Plan that would inform the timeline we'd have to use to make a decision about that trip.
 - b. RAMS has the annual 6th grade trip to Nature's Classroom scheduled for the week after April break. This trip is also school-sponsored, and we are meeting with the Nature's Classroom people to understand what our postponement/cancellation options could be. **THIS IS ONLY CONTINGENCY PLANNING AT THIS TIME** as no government agency, as of the date of this writing, has recommended any schools change their plans regarding trips such as these.
 - c. There is a **NON-SCHOOL SPONSORED** trip to Washington, DC that many of our 8th graders are planning on taking during April break. We have reached out to the organizers of this trip and encouraged them to: check their Travel Insurance policy; develop contingency plans, if able; and communicate directly with those families who have children signed up for this trip.
3. On Wednesday, March 4th at 4PM, the Massachusetts DPH issued a **REVISED** advisory regarding citizens who have travelled in countries designated Level 3 by the CDC (as of this writing, those countries are China, Iran, South Korea and Italy). This advisory asks people who have travelled to these areas to voluntarily self-quarantine for 14 days from the date you returned to the United States. Within 2 hours, we had contacted all families and staff who we are aware meet this criteria, informed them of the revised advisory and in each instance, received agreement that the traveler(s) would follow the DPH advisory. Moving forward, the Holliston Public Schools strongly urges **ANYONE** who has recently returned from a Level 3 country to observe the voluntary 14-day self-quarantine period until that advisory has been lifted. For further information regarding this issue, please see the DPH [website](#).
4. Superintendents from across Massachusetts are receiving numerous updates each week as the CDC and DPH learn more about this evolving situation. I will be participating in a

telephone conference with the Commissioner of DPH and the Commissioner of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) today. I will continue to closely monitor changes to their advisories and inform families and staff of any changes to our practices and procedures as necessary.

In the meantime, ALL information provided by the CDC and DPH continue to emphasize the importance of observing these important preventative measures:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If unable to wash, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer;
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth;
- Cover your coughs or sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve (NOT with your hands);
- Stay away from people who are sick and stay home when you are sick.

The last point is important to emphasize. It is critical that NO ONE (parents, students or staff) should come to school when they are ill. If a parent/guardian, child or staff member has any of the following symptoms, please keep them home from school until they have been symptom-free for at least 24-hours:

- Temperature greater than 100.0 degrees (F) prior to the administration of acetaminophen (Tylenol) or ibuprofen (Advil);
- Coughing, vomiting, diarrhea or any rash not yet diagnosed by a medical provider;
- Red or pink itchy eye, and/or drainage from the eye; or
- Any diagnosed contagious illness such as chicken pox, strep throat or flu.

Respectfully,

Bradford L. Jackson, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools