



Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District

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March 3, 2020

Dear DY Families and Staff,

It is hard to turn on the television or radio and not hear about the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the effects this is having across the world. So far, the risk for our area has been determined to be low. However, we have been receiving daily guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and many other sources including the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

In case you are not aware, according to the CDC, "COVID-19 is a respiratory illness caused by a novel (new) virus, and we are learning more about it every day. There is currently no vaccine to protect against COVID-19. At this point, the best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to the virus that causes it. Stopping transmission (spread) of the virus through everyday practices is the best way to keep people healthy."

The precautions to stop the spread of this virus are very similar to other viruses. The CDC recommends the following:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, if unable to wash, use alcohol-based hand sanitizers
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- 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

Please help us by keeping your child home if they have these symptoms: temperature greater than 100.4, coughing, vomiting, diarrhea, red or pink itchy eye, and/or drainage from the eye, and any contagious illness such as chicken pox, strep throat, or flu. We have placed a lot of emphasis on school attendance, but we do recommend that students stay home when they are sick.

Yesterday morning I met with our team to determine what more we could do to help prevent the spread of this and other illnesses in our schools. Our team included the Assistant Superintendent, the District Nurse, the Facilities Manager, the Assistant Facilities Manager, and the Director of Technology, the owner of our custodial service company and his vice-president of operations.

We will be bringing in some additional supplies over the next week to ensure increased hand washing especially in the larger common areas such as cafeterias. Classrooms will have some additional cleaning products on hand to be used as needed. The custodial company will do some additional cleaning of surfaces and classrooms. We will be following the protocols recommended by the Department of Public Health.

Empowering each student to achieve excellence with integrity in a changing world

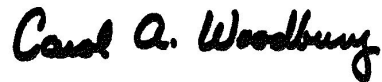
Should we be required to close school, we have developed a few ideas about how to help our students continue with their education. Hopefully, the risk level will remain low for our area and we will continue our work as usual.

For more information, please feel free to visit the CDC website:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

If anything changes, we will update you as soon as new information is available. For now we will simply practice “common sense” measures to keep everyone healthy.

Best wishes always,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol A. Woodbury". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Carol A. Woodbury
Superintendent of Schools