



QUINCY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Richard DeCristofaro, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

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March 11, 2020

Dear Quincy Public Schools Staff, Parents, and Guardians,

This afternoon, we learned that the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library & Museum has been closed as a precaution as two employees recently attended a conference with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 (Coronavirus). On March 2, Grade 5 students from the Montclair Elementary School, accompanied by several staff members, went on a field trip to the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library & Museum. After consultation with Mayor Thomas Koch, City of Quincy Health Commissioner Ruth Jones, and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, it has been determined that as the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library & Museum employees are not symptomatic, Montclair students and staff are not subject to self quarantine recommendations and may continue to attend school. Tonight, the Montclair Elementary School will be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized by a cleaning crew using the E23 machines that disinfect surfaces of all pathogens. The Montclair Elementary School will be open for a regular school day on Thursday.

Please know that we are continuing to monitor the communications from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Massachusetts Governor Charles Baker, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH), Commissioner of Education Jeffrey Riley, and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in order to share information and develop and implement plans to keep the community as safe as possible. With this guidance in place, the Superintendent's Leadership and Principals Teams will continue to collaborate with Mayor Koch, the Quincy School Committee, and Health Commissioner Ruth Jones to respond appropriately as the situation evolves. Any changes in procedures will be shared as soon as the information is available.

Areas of focus for the management of COVID-19 include:

Cleaning and Classroom Maintenance Our custodial staff are committed to ensuring that all our facilities are cleaned and disinfected daily, including weekends when buildings may be in use by the community. Through collaboration with our principals and nurses, priority areas have been identified as high usage, such as bathrooms, the cafeteria and gymnasium, and all "frequent touch" items such as doorknobs, railings, lockers, tables, desks, etc. These cleaning routines help control the spread of many pathogens, including COVID-19. The custodial staff has sufficient supplies necessary to ensure that we are able to meet any cleaning and disinfection needs that may develop. In addition, our school buses are being thoroughly cleaned each week using approved disinfectant products. We will continue to evaluate and adjust our strategies as necessary to meet the needs of the school community.

(continued)

Quincy Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, national origin, or handicap, in its educational activities or employment practices.

Healthy Behaviors We are directing all students to practice regular handwashing with soap and water for 20 seconds each time as the best way to control the spread of infection. Students are provided frequent opportunities to wash their hands throughout the day, especially before and after eating breakfast, snacks, and lunch. As always, students who are unwell, with symptoms of a cold, a fever, or virus, should stay home until the symptoms have abated. Please contact your school nurse as a resource for your student's health concerns, as well as contacting your family health care provider.

Cancellations and Closures We will continue to collaborate with Mayor Koch, the Quincy School Committee, the Quincy Health Department, and the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to evaluate risks to the school community and to make thoughtful decisions about any significant changes to our regular routines. We have already made several decisions that we believe will help keep students, families, and staff safe, including cancelling all international and out of state school trips; other local field trips are under review on an individual basis. As of today, extracurricular and family engagement activities, including athletics, will continue as scheduled.

In the event of an extended school closure, the Superintendent's Leadership and Principal Teams will follow guidance from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, in collaborating with teachers to provide academic opportunities for students through alternate means. Additional information on this will be shared as necessary.

Travel Outside the USA All families returning from travel outside of the United States must contact their school Principal prior to students returning to school. Families returning from high-risk areas (as defined by the CDC) should also contact the City of Quincy Health Commissioner Ruth Jones at 617-376-1272 for further guidance.

Communication Quincy Public Schools will continue to share information on a regular basis as this situation evolves. There is a dedicated page with links to COVID-19 resources on the Quincy Public Schools website at www.quincypublicschools.com. Check this site frequently as new content is posted as it becomes available.

Finally, please be assured that all of us at Quincy Public Schools are aware of the stress on families created by the uncertainty of this situation. Your patience and thoughtfulness towards each other as we negotiate the duration of the COVID-19 issue in the community is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 617-984-8701, Health Services Coordinator Rita Bailey at 617-984-8899, or the Quincy Health Department Commissioner Ruth Jones at 617-376-1272.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard DeCristofaro". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'R' and 'D'.

Richard DeCristofaro, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools