



## Hopkinton Public Schools

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Superintendent

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Good afternoon, Hopkinton faculty, students, and families:

I want to begin this email with an expression of thanks for your patience while we continue to work through what is a careful approach to supporting health and safety in our school community. Thanks are also due to building and district administrators, along with their administrative assistants, who have been navigating much of this all day. Our school nurses spent the day collaborating with the town's public health officials, and our custodial staff have worked assiduously over the past 24 hours to ensure that our buildings and school buses are cleaned and disinfected.

Last night the Director of Finance and Operations, Susan Rothermich, and I were called to a meeting with Hopkinton's Town Manager, local Board of Health Officials, Fire Chief Steve Slaman, members of the Select Board, and members of the School Committee. In that setting, we discussed the 41 cases of Presumptive Positive people in Middlesex County as well as the two cases in Hopkinton. It was determined that there may be farther-reaching incidence in our community, but it was too early to understand the magnitude of contact between Presumptive Positive individuals and others.

Given the time today, public health officials and school nurses identified groups of students and staff who may have potentially been exposed to the COVID-19, and those families and faculty are being contacted directly. Those students, teachers, and staff will need to be in quarantine for 14 days. The Hopkinton Health Department will contact people who need to quarantine. And, they will continue to work on determining the magnitude of the spread of virus by following social touchpoints.

As a School District, we are asking families to be prudent about limiting social interactions, to continue to wash your hands, and to avoid physical interactions such as hugs, high fives, handshakes, and the like. It is important that we all behave in accordance with DPH recommendations, which include not sending your children to school when they are sick and having a back-up plan to pick up children at school should they become sick during the school day. Practice social distancing.

Part of our continued work to ensure health and safety in Hopkinton requires us to close the Hopkinton Public Schools along with canceling all after school and extracurricular events and activities throughout the remainder of this week. I spoke with the Massachusetts Associate Commissioner of Education, Helene Bettencourt, who noted that these days will be treated like snow days and will need to be made up at the end of the school year. Guidance at this point is that we will be in attendance through the scheduled 185th day of school (June 23, 2020).

Right now our buildings are clean and disinfected, and we are hoping to be able to open them soon for teaching and learning. When and/or how that will happen will certainly come with updated information as it

becomes available. We are still considering remote options for instruction, but that needs to be determined with guidance from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

Please reach out directly if there is school-related information I can help you with. Because I am not a public health official, I am unable to share health information.

Again, I thank you for your patience and underscore that we are working with the Department of Health to support the health and safety of all.

Sincerely,

Carol Cavanaugh