

Dear Tri-Town School Union Families and Staff,

The purpose of this communication is to share with you the latest resources related to the Coronavirus and to provide you with an update as to the proactive actions we are taking as school district as we follow the news reports and updates from local, regional, state and federal partners.

Regarding resources, the first one below is a public health fact sheet on the Coronavirus. The other two resources you may want to consider saving as a “favorite” as they are updated frequently by Mass.gov and the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

- Public Health Fact Sheet (in multiple languages):  
<https://www.mass.gov/guides/information-on-the-outbreak-of-2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19#-printable-fact-sheets->
- MA Department of Public Health Coronavirus website:  
[www.mass.gov/2019coronavirus](http://www.mass.gov/2019coronavirus)
- Center for Disease Control Coronavirus website:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Regarding the steps we are taking, it is best to begin with a reminder about the universal precautions we can all take at school and home. As we know, hand-washing is one of the most important precautions that can be taken. At the elementary level, the advice we often give our students is to wash their hands for as long as it takes them to sing (twice) the “Happy Birthday song” (I must admit that I have recently been singing this same song to myself as I wash my hands to make sure I am doing a thorough job!). Here are additional precautions to take:

### **Taking Precautions at Home/School**

We urge all families to continue the practice of maintaining healthy behaviors necessary during any cold and flu season. These include but are not limited to:

- Wash hands frequently with soap and water. Use an alcohol-based hand cleaner if soap and water are not available;
- Cover nose and mouth with a sleeve or a tissue when coughing or sneezing;
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth to prevent the spread of germs;
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects, such as toys and doorknobs, especially if someone is sick;
- Stay home when you are sick.

### **Additional steps that we are taking across the Tri-Town School Union:**

- The Boxford, Middleton, and Topsfield Public Schools are closely monitoring the latest news and updates and we are working very closely with the Board of Health Directors in our three towns who are in regular communication with the MA Department of Public Health (DPH). The DPH is working closely with the Center for Disease Control (CDC);

- All nurses in our six schools continue to track and trend illness in every school, and travel history is a component of their nursing assessment of any ill student;
- In the coming weeks and months, we will be closely monitoring the state and federal guidance around any large group events where students will be participating to understand any possible risks or concerns. As of now, all scheduled events and activities will proceed as planned.

As always, we very much appreciate your continued support and cooperation and we value the home and school partnership that we have with you. As the events warrant in the near and far term, we will continue to communicate any further updates to you.

Sincerely,

Scott R. Morrison, Ed.D.  
Superintendent  
Tri-Town School Union