

From: Francis W. Parker Charter Essential School
Sent On: 03-11-2020 13:57:45
Subject: COVID-19 Update from Parker

Dear Families,

We are continuing to monitor the COVID-19 virus in our region and to follow the daily updates from public health officials in Massachusetts and the CDC. The situation is dynamic; the guidance is evolving. As we continue this work, we intend to remain true to our values of community, care, and collaboration: it is still our intention to use Friday Announcements and occasional emails like this one to keep our community informed. Should you have additional questions, please direct your questions to Todd's office (tsumner@theparkerschool.org).

- We are taking proactive steps (contingency planning, enhanced daily cleaning routines, screening protocols, et al.) to [mitigate risk of infection](#) and prepare for a positive case of COVID-19 in the Parker community should one arise in the future.
- We confirmed with Commissioner Riley and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) that [teleschool/online learning is NOT an option](#) for most public schools in Massachusetts at this time.
- Decisions about temporary school closure or suspension of classes are made in collaboration with the local Board of Health. In Parker's case, that is the Nashoba Associated Boards of Health, based in Ayer. At this time no such recommendation has been made, nor are there known exposures to COVID-19 in our school community.
- Families should exercise independent critical judgement about whether to send their student(s) to school based on their individual circumstances. Please be sure to inform the school if you make this choice. Parker teachers will make reasonable efforts to make classroom materials available in Office365 for students whose families choose to keep them home.
- School nursing staff will screen students and staff returning from international travel or domestic areas of impact using CDC protocols.
- In accordance with guidance from the Commonwealth, we have postponed an international trip scheduled for April break. Trip leaders are working with participating families and a third-party vendor to manage rescheduling and vouchers. DESE has also advised schools to avoid out-of-state school trips; we have none planned at this time.
- We are assessing the appropriateness of local field trips and community events scheduled for this spring on a case-by-case basis. For example, we will not hold Weekly Gathering today in order to avoid having 450 people in the gym at one time.
- Please email Lisa Zick at lzick@theparkerschool.org (before your student returns to school) if anyone in your family has traveled out of the country (or to areas of domestic impact, like the Seattle region) or if you believe that your student or a family member may have been exposed to COVID-19.

Sincerely,

Todd Sumner