



EASTHAMPTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

EASTHAMPTON MUNICIPAL BUILDING

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Allison LeClair, Ed.D., Superintendent

March 11, 2020

Dear Easthampton Families:

The most important information for you to know is that Easthampton has no confirmed cases of COVID-19.

Local health officials will continue to take actions as warranted by the evidence and in consultation with the MA Department of Public Health (DPH), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). As of March 9, the Easthampton Public Schools has cancelled all field trips, which includes local, out of state, and international trips. We are also severely limiting the use of our buildings by outside groups.

The situation regarding COVID-19 is fluid and we continue to remain in close communication our city health officials, DPH, and CDC for any new information and guidance. I want to be sure everyone has the necessary information about what the schools are doing in relation to preventive measures:

- All EPS communication is located on our district website – www.epsd.us - in the yellow box on the main district page.
- Building administrators and staff continue to reinforce proper handwashing.
- Our bus vendor, Durham Transportation Inc., has informed us that they are sanitizing all buses daily.
- The Technology Department is sanitizing all computers that move in and out of service through the department.
- The Custodial and Maintenance Department has taken several steps including:
 - Installing 24 new, mounted sanitizer dispensers to supplement those already installed in our schools. They are uniformly located at entrances, elevators, cafeterias, auditoriums, gyms, and health offices.
 - Daily sanitizing the schools using EPA approved HBV chemicals delivered in pump sprays. Frequently touched areas such as door handles, water fountain handles, and elevator buttons are sanitized at least two times a day. Sanitizing cafeterias, health offices, and rest rooms are prioritized for attention above other more discretionary custodial tasks.
 - We have purchased and are awaiting delivery of electrostatic sanitizing dispensers to increase efficiency of large-scale sanitizing efforts.
 - We have contracted with an outside vendor to do wide scale disinfecting of all school buildings at the earliest, non-occupied opportunity.

Regarding the latest information related to our school calendar, the following was released by the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) yesterday.

180-day School Year Requirement:

1. All days lost to health, weather, or safety emergencies between the first day of the school year and March 15 must be made up by rescheduling full school days to ensure a 180-day school year.
2. All days lost to health, weather, or safety emergencies between March 16 and June 1 must be made up to ensure a 180-day school year or until the district has reached its previously scheduled 185th day, whichever comes first. If all five snow days have been used prior to this point, the district is not required to scheduled additional school days.
3. Districts will not be expected to make up any days lost to health, weather, or safety emergencies that occur after June 1.

I am working daily with school, state, and emergency leaders across the state to share resources and receive ongoing, updated information. The next conference call with DESE around COVID-19 is scheduled for Thursday afternoon.

Sincerely,

Allison LeClair, Ed.D.
Superintendent

A great place to learn and grow.