



3/12/2020

Dear Whitman-Hanson Community:

I am writing to in light of Governor Baker's announcement yesterday declaring a State of Emergency in Massachusetts. We are cancelling a number of our upcoming events. This proactive action is being taken for the well-being of our students, their families and our staff members.

I would also like to address possible questions involving last night's basketball game related to COVID-19. After consulting with Athletic Director, Bob Rodgers and the MIAA, we are confident that our students were not placed in an elevated risk environment. The TD Garden has an advanced HVAC system and also performed extensive cleaning. In addition, the infected Utah Jazz player was in the building on Friday and our team played on Wednesday. That length of time is outside the scope of how long viruses, experts believe, survive on surfaces and in the air. The basketball players were not in team locker rooms used by the NBA nor did they have any access to any athletic equipment used by the NBA. We are awaiting MIAA decisions regarding the High School Boys' Basketball State Championship scheduled for this Saturday.

The school district will continue to adhere to directives and guidelines from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE) the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) and our local Hanson and Whitman Boards of Health, as these decisions to cancel are being made.

Cancelled Events:

- 3/13 and 3/20 Conley School field trip to Museum of Fine Arts
- 3/13 HS Alumni Concert Community Band Concert
- 3/13 HS Fundraiser for Golf at Meadowbrook Restaurant
- 3/15 HS Band to Abington Parade cancelled by Town of Abington
- 3/16 HS Art Field trip to Tufts University and Lesley College of Art and Design
- 3/17 HS Shakespeare and Company
- 3/19 Conley Basket Auction at Whitman Middle School
- 3/20 HS SEMSBA at Stoughton HS
- 3/21 HS Show Choir Competition – Andover HS cancelled by Show Choir event staff
- 4/2 National Honor Society Spring Conference
- 4/4 HS Show Choir Competition – Waltham HS cancelled by Show Choir event staff

We will continue to review additional upcoming events on a case by case basis. The conference call scheduled today with the Commissioner of Education has been re-scheduled until tomorrow morning. We will update you with any new information.

I have attached two resources titled "Talking to your Child about COVID-19" and "Coping with Stress." In addition, please visit the district website home news page for more information and resources at [www.whrsd.org](http://www.whrsd.org)

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey Szymaniak", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jeffrey Szymaniak  
Superintendent of Schools