

March 11, 2020



Dear Members of the Whitman-Hanson Community,

Yesterday, Governor Baker declared a state of emergency for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This correspondence is intended to provide information that translates to public education in Massachusetts and how we are advised to proceed here in the Whitman-Hanson Regional School District. Keep in mind that schools in Massachusetts receive guidance from several agencies and we rely on that guidance to formulate our direction.

The past few weeks have been filled with information that has created a great deal of uncertainty and speculation on how schools operate, particularly given the current state of health internationally. Here in Whitman-Hanson, our school district lead nurse and administrative team have been working with the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (MDESE), Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH), the Whitman and Hanson Departments of Public Health and local first responders. We rely on information from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) to assist in the decision-making process.

Governor Baker made the following key points, and I have included language on how the Whitman-Hanson Regional School District will address those issues;

- **Out-of District interstate and out of state travel-** All Whitman-Hanson trips and opportunities out of state will be placed on hold until further notice. Our trip sponsors will be working with students and parents to determine how we move forward with specific details of each trip. At the time of this letter, all in state field trips, competitions and events are proceeding as scheduled.
- **Student attendance:** Students mandated to be in self-isolation or self-quarantine will work with the school district on attendance adjustments.
- **Large group gatherings:** The guidance provided today is that people identified as having vulnerable health conditions are strongly encouraged not to attend these events. We will be reviewing all opportunities planned for the future and I will communicate with the community when cancellations occur.

In addition, I am asking that you please help by informing us if your child has traveled or will be traveling internationally so that we can establish appropriate re-entry parameters upon their return. Please be advised that we may ask your child to be self-isolated for a specific period of time as directed by the CDC.

As we monitor this situation, we will continue to employ our increased cycled disinfecting of schools as a proactive measure. This is being done on all shifts with our custodial staff cleaning and disinfecting touchable surfaces, handrails, door knobs, etc. throughout the day and evening shifts. We are working with our transportation services to insure cleaning and disinfecting is performed on a regular basis on both busses and vans.

In closing, these measures are being implemented to help contain the spread of the COVID-19. As the situation evolves each day, we receive additional information that guides our decision-making process. Together as a community, we can all do our part to help stop the spread of the COVID-19. Please see district website home page news that provides informational resources at [www.whrsd.org](http://www.whrsd.org)

Sincerely,

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

Jeffrey Szymaniak  
Superintendent of Schools