



Newsletter

<https://sites.google.com/a/northampton-k12.us/nps/our-schools/jackson-street-school>

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You may also connect with us on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/#!/NPSDistrict>

Ms. Allessi's website: <https://sites.google.com/northampton-k12.us/mindfulnessatjss>

JSS Office 587-1510

Volume 24 No. 28

March 13, 2020

If you wish to have a copy of this letter written in Spanish, French or Arabic, please contact the school department at 587-1315. Si le gustaria esta carta en Espanol, es posible. Llama 413-587-1315. Si vous voulez une copie de cette lettre en Français, veuillez contacter le Département de l'École 587-1315. إذا رغبت أن يكتب لك هذه الرسالة بلغة عربية، فيرجى الاتصال بالمدارس في 587-1315.

MESSAGE FROM MS. AGNA

TODAY, FRIDAY, MARCH 13 is a half-day in all the Northampton Schools. Dismissal in the elementary schools is at 12:20PM and bag lunches are available.

LOTS OF INFORMATION ABOUT COVID19 – first a link to a video and then two articles about talking with your children about it:

<https://www.brainpop.com/health/diseasesinjuriesandconditions/coronavirus/>

Talking to Kids About the Coronavirus

Kids worry more when they're kept in the dark by Rachel Ehmke

News of the coronavirus COVID-19 is everywhere, from the front page of all the papers to the playground at school. Many parents are wondering how to bring up the epidemic in a way that will be reassuring and not make kids more worried than they already may be. Here is some advice from the experts at the Child Mind Institute.

- Don't be afraid to discuss the coronavirus. Most children will have already heard about the virus or seen people wearing face masks, so parents shouldn't avoid talking about it. Not talking about something can actually make kids worry more. Look at the conversation as an opportunity to convey the facts and set the emotional tone. "You take on the news and you're the person who filters the news to your kid," explains Janine Domingues, PhD, a child psychologist at the Child Mind Institute. Your goal is to help your children feel informed and get fact-based information that is likely more reassuring than whatever they're hearing from their friends or on the news.
- Be developmentally appropriate. Don't volunteer too much information, as this may be overwhelming. Instead, try to answer your child's questions. Do your best to answer honestly and clearly. It's okay if you can't answer everything; being available to your child is what matters.
- Take your cues from your child. Invite your child to tell you anything they may have heard about the coronavirus, and how they feel. Give them ample opportunity to ask questions. You want to be prepared to answer (but not prompt) questions. Your goal is to avoid encouraging frightening fantasies.
- Deal with your own anxiety. "When you're feeling most anxious or panicked, that isn't the time to talk to your kids about what's happening with the coronavirus," warns Dr. Domingues. If you notice that you are feeling anxious, take some time to calm down before trying to have a conversation or answer your child's questions.
- Be reassuring. Children are very egocentric, so hearing about the coronavirus on the news may be enough to make them seriously worry that they'll catch it. It's helpful to reassure your child about how rare the coronavirus actually is (the flu is much more common) and that kids actually seem to have milder symptoms.
- Focus on what you're doing to stay safe. An important way to reassure kids is to emphasize the safety precautions that you are taking. Jamie Howard, PhD, a child psychologist at the Child Mind Institute, notes, "Kids feel empowered when they know what to do to keep themselves safe." We know that the coronavirus is transmitted mostly by coughing and touching surfaces. The CDC recommends thoroughly washing your hands as the primary means of staying healthy. So remind kids that they are taking care of themselves by washing their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds (or the length of two "Happy Birthday" songs) when they

come in from outside, before they eat, and after blowing their nose, coughing, sneezing or using the bathroom. If kids ask about face masks, explain that the experts at the CDC say they aren't necessary for most people. If kids see people wearing face masks, explain that those people are being extra cautious.

- Stick to routine. "We don't like uncertainty, so staying rooted in routines and predictability is going to be helpful right now," advises Dr. Domingues. This is particularly important if your child's school or daycare shuts down. Make sure you are taking care of the basics just like you would during a spring break or summer vacation. Structured days with regular mealtimes and bedtimes are an essential part of keeping kids happy and healthy.
- Keep talking. Tell kids that you will continue to keep them updated as you learn more. "Let them know that the lines of communication are going to be open," says Dr. Domingues. "You can say, 'Even though we don't have the answers to everything right now, know that once we know more, mom or dad will let you know, too.'"

Talking to Children About COVID-19 (Coronavirus): A Parent Resource

A new type of coronavirus, abbreviated COVID-19, is causing an outbreak of respiratory (lung) disease. It was first detected in China and has now been detected internationally. While the immediate health risk in the United States is low, it is important to plan for any possible outbreaks if the risk level increases in the future.

Concern over this new virus can make children and families anxious. While we don't know where and to what extent the disease may spread here in the United States, we do know that it is contagious, that the severity of illness can vary from individual to individual, and that there are steps we can take to prevent the spread of infection. Acknowledging some level of concern, without panicking, is appropriate and can result in taking actions that reduce the risk of illness. Helping children cope with anxiety requires providing accurate prevention information and facts without causing undue alarm.

It is very important to remember that children look to adults for guidance on how to react to stressful events. If parents seem overly worried, children's anxiety may rise. Parents should reassure children that health and school officials are working hard to ensure that people throughout the country stay healthy. However, children also need factual, age appropriate information about the potential seriousness of disease risk and concrete instruction about how to avoid infections and spread of disease. Teaching children positive preventive measures, talking with them about their fears, and giving them a sense of some control over their risk of infection can help reduce anxiety.

Specific Guidelines

Remain calm and reassuring.

- Children will react to and follow your verbal and nonverbal reactions.
- What you say and do about COVID-19, current prevention efforts, and related events can either increase or decrease your children's anxiety.
- If true, emphasize to your children that they and your family are fine.
- Remind them that you and the adults at their school are there to keep them safe and healthy.
- Let your children talk about their feelings and help reframe their concerns into the appropriate perspective.

Make yourself available.

- Children may need extra attention from you and may want to talk about their concerns, fears, and questions.
- It is important that they know they have someone who will listen to them; make time for them.
- Tell them you love them and give them plenty of affection.

Avoid excessive blaming.

- When tensions are high, sometimes we try to blame someone.
- It is important to avoid stereotyping any one group of people as responsible for the virus.
- Bullying or negative comments made toward others should be stopped and reported to the school.
- Be aware of any comments that other adults are having around your family. You may have to explain what comments mean if they are different than the values that you have at home.

Monitor television viewing and social media.

- Limit television viewing or access to information on the Internet and through social media. Try to avoid watching or listening to information that might be upsetting when your children are present.
- Speak to your child about how many stories about COVID-19 on the Internet may be based on rumors and inaccurate information.

- Talk to your child about factual information of this disease—this can help reduce anxiety.
- Constantly watching updates on the status of COVID-19 can increase anxiety—avoid this.
- Be aware that developmentally inappropriate information (i.e., information designed for adults) can cause anxiety or confusion, particularly in young
- Engage your child in games or other interesting activities instead.

Maintain a normal routine to the extent possible.

- Keep to a regular schedule, as this can be reassuring and promotes physical health.
- Encourage your children to keep up with their schoolwork and extracurricular activities, but don't push them if they seem overwhelmed.

Be honest and accurate.

- In the absence of factual information, children often imagine situations far worse than reality.
- Don't ignore their concerns, but rather explain that at the present moment very few people in this country are sick with COVID-19.
- Children can be told this disease is thought to be spread between people who are in close contact with one another—when an infected person coughs or sneezes.
- It is also thought it can be spread when you touch an infected surface or object, which is why it is so important to protect yourself.
- For additional factual information contact your school nurse, ask your doctor, or check the <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html> website.

Know the symptoms of COVID-19.

- The CDC believes these symptoms appear in a few days after being exposed to someone with the disease or as long as 14 days after exposure:
 - Fever
 - Cough
 - Shortness for breath
- For some people the symptoms are like having a cold; for others they are quite severe or even life threatening. In either case it is important to check with your child's healthcare provider (or yours) and follow instructions about staying home or away from public spaces to prevent the spread of the virus.

Review and model basic hygiene and healthy lifestyle practices for protection.

- Encourage your child to practice every day good hygiene—simple steps to prevent spread of illness:
- Wash hands multiple times a day for at least 20 seconds (singing Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star slowly takes about 20 seconds).
- Cover their mouths with a tissue when they sneeze or cough and throw away the tissue immediately, or sneeze or cough into the bend of their elbow. Do not share food or drinks.
- Practice giving fist or elbow bumps instead of handshakes. Fewer germs are spread this way.
- Giving children guidance on what they can do to prevent infection gives them a greater sense of control over disease spread and will help to reduce their anxiety.
- Encourage your child to eat a balanced diet, get enough sleep, and exercise regularly; this will help them develop a strong immune system to fight off illness.

Discuss new rules or practices at school.

- Many schools already enforce illness prevention habits, including frequent hand washing or use of alcohol-based hand cleansers.
- Your school nurse or principal will send information home about any new rules or practices.
- Be sure to discuss this with your child.
- Contact your school nurse with any specific questions.

Communicate with your school.

- Let your school know if your child is sick and keep them home. Your school may ask if your child has a fever or not. This information will help the school to know why your child was kept home. If your child is diagnosed with COVID-19, let the school know so they can

communicate with and get guidance from local health authorities.

- Talk to your school nurse, school psychologist, school counselor, or school social worker if your child is having difficulties as a result of anxiety or stress related to COVID-19. They can give guidance and support to your child at school.
- Make sure to follow all instructions from your school.

Take Time to Talk

You know your children best. Let their questions be your guide as to how much information to provide. However, don't avoid giving them the information that health experts identify as critical to ensuring your children's health. Be patient; children and youth do not always talk about their concerns readily. Watch for clues that they may want to talk, such as hovering around while you do the dishes or yard work. It is very typical for younger children to ask a few questions, return to playing, then come back to ask more questions.

When sharing information, it is important make sure to provide facts without promoting a high level of stress, remind children that adults are working to address this concern, and give children actions they can take to protect themselves.

Information is rapidly changing about this new virus—to have the most correct information stay informed by accessing <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.

Keep Explanations Age Appropriate

- Early elementary school children need brief, simple information that should balance COVID-19 facts with appropriate reassurances that their schools and homes are safe and that adults are there to help keep them healthy and to take care of them if they do get sick. Give simple examples of the steps people take every day to stop germs and stay healthy, such as washing hands. Use language such as “adults are working hard to keep you safe.”
- Upper elementary and early middle school children will be more vocal in asking questions about whether they truly are safe and what will happen if COVID-19 comes to their school or community. They may need assistance separating reality from rumor and fantasy. Discuss efforts of school and community leaders to prevent germs from spreading.
- Upper middle school and high school students are able to discuss the issue in a more in-depth (adult-like) fashion and can be referred directly to appropriate sources of COVID-19 facts. Provide honest, accurate, and factual information about the current status of COVID-19. Having such knowledge can help them feel a sense of control.

Suggested Points to Emphasize When Talking to Children

- Adults at home and school are taking care of your health and safety. If you have concerns, please talk to an adult you trust.
- Not everyone will get the coronavirus (COVID-19) disease. School and health officials are being especially careful to make sure as few people as possible get sick.
- It is important that all students treat each other with respect and not jump to conclusions about who may or may not have COVID-19.
- There are things you can do to stay health and avoid spreading the disease:
 - Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
 - Stay home when you are sick.
 - Cover your cough or sneeze into your elbow or a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
 - Wash hands often with soap and water (20 seconds).
 - If you don't have soap, use hand sanitizer (60–95% alcohol based).
 - Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

Additional Resources

Talking With Children: Tips for Caregivers, Parents, and Teachers During Infectious Disease Outbreaks, <https://store.samhsa.gov/product/Talking-With-Children-Tips-for-Caregivers-Parents-and-Teachers-During-Infectious-Disease-Outbreaks/SMA14-4886>

Coping With Stress During Infectious Disease Outbreaks, <https://store.samhsa.gov/product/Coping-with-Stress-During-Infectious-Disease-Outbreaks/sma14-4885>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/transmission.html>

Handwashing and Hand Sanitizer Use at Home, at Play, and Out and About, <https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/pdf/hand-sanitizer-factsheet.pdf>

For more information related to schools and physical and mental health, visit www.nasponline.org and www.nasn.org.

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MORNING MATH CLUB

Due to the restrictions on numbers of people gathering from outside our school, we have made the difficult decision to cancel the Tuesday Morning Math Club for the rest of the year. If things change, we will let you know.

We are all so sorry for the cancellations we have had to make and hope that we can postpone/reschedule/share video links of what it is that we want to share with you. We must follow the state and Federal guidelines for keeping our schools safe. Please refer to the letter from Superintendent John Provost about the measures being taken at this point to clean/sanitize surfaces in our schools. We thank you for your understanding.

INTERESTED IN THE DISTRICT CURRICULUM?

It's now online and accessible – check out the following links!!

The public-facing curriculum information and link to the maps on Atlas. <http://www.northamptonschools.org/project/nps-district-curriculum/>

Direct link to Atlas: <https://northamptonk12-public.rubiconatlas.org/Atlas/Public/View/Default>

FY21 FIRST VIEW BUDGET

Superintendent John Provost presented the FY21 Budget to the School Committee on February 27, 2020. It is now on the Northampton Public Schools website - <http://www.northamptonschools.org/>

When you open the page, it is in the section with rotating photos. I will also print it out – if you would like a hard copy, email me and I'll send it home with your child.

The month of March is reserved for input and feedback to the Superintendent about the budget. He and we all want transparency in this process – please take a look at it and if you have any questions/concerns/ideas, email me or him directly: jprovost@northampton-k12.us. We need all comments by the end of March.

Yours in health and in community,


Gwen Agna

Coffee Hour

The next Caregivers Coffee Hour will take place Wednesday, March 18th from 9-10am in the Family Center. This casual gathering is a chance to discuss and ask questions about current happenings at JSS and enjoy a cup of coffee or tea and a snack. All caregivers and younger siblings are welcome to attend. Ms. Agna usually joins the conversation. We hope you'll join us!

Can't make it that day? Coffee Hour occurs on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month.

LOST & FOUND – ONE MORE TIME!

The Lost & Found is once again filled with lost items: jackets, hats, gloves/mittens, sweatshirts, snow pants, water bottles, lunch boxes and more. Please come check to see whether any of the items belongs to your student.

Woohoo! Florence Bank's Customers' Choice Community Grants!

This year we received 76 votes from Florence Bank customers who voted for the JSS PTO as their non-profit of choice. At around \$18 a vote our PTO received a gift of \$1,371! Let's aim to get over 100 votes next year and bump that gift up for our deserving students and staff. Votes are being accepted already for 2020 online and in bank branches!

Swing Into Spring Update!

Unfortunately, we are no longer able to host our annual silent auction at the Garden House on March 27th due to the recent COVID-19 safety precautions being implemented in the district and outlined in Dr. Provost's recent letter to families. With nearly 300 amazing items donated by generous community members the PTO is not willing to throw in the towel quite yet! Our annual silent auction, Swing Into Spring, provides critical funding for daily operations of the school. Each year this auction raises between \$16,000-\$20,000 which is given directly to the school as a discretionary budget fund.

At this point, the PTO is looking at options for hosting the auction online. This requires a different skills set than in the past! If you have any past experience with hosting an online auction, photography skills, or any other tech support to offer please email the PTO at: jacksonstreetpto@gmail.com

Thanks in advance for your dedication to helping our school community!

SWING INTO SPRING BASKETS

For the past several years, the PTO has sought donations from JSS families to compile themed gift baskets by grade to be auctioned off at the Swing Into Spring event. We ask that families that are able to, donate an item for the basket that corresponds to their student's grade. All donations are greatly appreciated and nothing needs to be expensive! Many of the best items come from dollar stores, or perhaps from a stash of (new) small gifts, party favors and craft items you may have at home. Families have been wonderfully creative in collecting gift basket items and the baskets have helped to raise funds that directly benefit our students and school. This year, we're pairing two grades per theme. See themes below:

Donated items may be sent to school or dropped off in the office. There are boxes in the office for each theme where items may be placed. Please bring in any donated items by Monday, March 23rd. Contact Beth Maurer with questions or for more information: jssvolunteers@gmail.com or (413) 320-9950.

Here are the themes for each grade and a few suggestions of the kind of items that might fit the theme – let your imagination go!

Kindergarten & Third Grade - Arts & Crafts

- Suggestions: anything and everything to get crafty: beads, popsicle sticks, paper, markers, glitter glue, stickers, paints, Play Dough, clay, wiki sticks, crayons, craft kits...

First and Fourth Grades - Outdoor Fun

- Suggestions: anything to make being outdoors fun: bubbles, balls, chalk, binoculars, sunglasses, frisbee, jump rope, water toys, swim goggles, beach gear...

Second and Fifth Grades - Family Game Night


- Suggestions: classic board games (Monopoly, Scrabble, Sorry...), decks of cards, Mad Libs, crosswords, Sudoku, Twister, dice, Rubik's Cube, new favorites...

Become a Swing Into Spring Underwriter!

Auction items are just one part of the equation in our Swing Into Spring success! Do you know you or your place of employment can become a Swing Into Spring underwriter? By making a monetary donation to the auction you will greatly reduce the cost of the event by funding the facility rental, printing costs, and entertainment. Underwriting is essential in supporting our wish to keep this event admission free and a fun community event for all. Help us celebrate this exciting evening and also take advantage of a wonderful advertising opportunity. Become an Auction Champion by donating \$1,000 or more, and Auction Promoter by donating \$500 or more, a Sponsor for \$250, or a Friend for \$100. All underwriters will be recognized on signage on the day of the event, and thanked publicly during the event.

Please contact jacksonstreetauction@gmail.com to make a donation or to request and underwriter form to share with someone you think may be interested.

IN THE NEWS

 **4th grader, Joseph Lesley's mom, Naomi's** letter to the editor was published in the Daily Hampshire Gazette – its subject centered on a response to an article and another letter about libraries and what should be available to all readers – check it out! <http://tinyurl.com/uoxc2ec>

MARK YOUR CALENDAR – We’re always adding new dates so keep checking. PLEASE check the Northampton Public Schools website for district calendar updates.

Parents Hour in the Family Center the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, from 9-10AM, beginning Wed. Sept. 4. The JSS PTO meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

The Walking School Bus (Fall & Spring) – Ms. Agna alternates on Fridays around 8:10AM between the bike path (starting behind Stop and Shop) and Hampshire Heights, starting at the bottom of the hill near the CVS plaza.

- Fri. Mar. 20 Grade 1-5 Progress Report Cards go home
 - Fri. Mar. 27 Annual Swing Into Spring School Auction – cancelled. Stay tuned for updates!!
 - Fri. Apr. 3 – 10:30AM All-school Assembly: JFK Jazz Band performance – we will let you know if we can hold this.
 - Thurs. April 9 HOLA Session 3 ends
 - Wed. Apr. 15 PTO Meeting 6:30-8pm JSS Library – NOTE DATE CHANGE!
 - Mon. Apr. 20-Fri. Apr. 24 – NO SCHOOL – SPRING RECESS
 - Tues. May 5 HOLA Session 4 starts
 - Sat. May 9 NEF Garden Sale at Smith Vocational - JSS PTO sells coffee and baked goods.
 - Wed. May 13 PTO Meeting 6:30-8pm JSS Library
 - Fri. May 15 Staff/Faculty Work (1/2) Day – dismissal at 12:20PM
 - Mon. May 25 NO SCHOOL – Memorial Day
 - Thurs. May 28 2:00PM KDG students host our JSS Grads (tentative date) – We will let you know if we can hold this
 - Wed. Jun. 10 PTO Meeting 6:30-8pm JSS Library
 - Thurs. June 11 HOLA Session 4 ends
 - Fri. June 12th 9:15AM All-school Assembly: Ms. Agna reads “A Fine Fine School” – We will let you know if we can hold this.
- ALL GRADES PROGRESS REPORT CARDS GO HOME ON THE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL – LAST DAY STILL TO BE DETERMINED. 5th GRADE GRADUATION IS SCHEDULED THE DAY BEFORE THE LAST (HALF) DAY OF SCHOOL.**

Jackson Street School MCAS Schedule

Revised 1/9/20 Correct as of 1/9/20

ELA

4rd Grade	Wed April 1	Thurs April 2	Make Up Apr 6
3rd Grade	Tues April 7	Wed April 8	Make Up Apr 9
5th Grade	Wed April 15	Thurs April 16	Make Up Apr 17

MATH

3rd Grade	Wed April 29	Thurs April 30	Make Up May 1
5th Grade	Wed May 6	Thurs May 7	Make Up May 8
4th Grade	Wed May 13	Thurs May 14	Make Up May 18

STE

5th Grade	Wed May 20	Thurs May 21	Make Up May 22
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NORTHAMPTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Rebecca Busansky Sean Condon
Roni Gold Kaia Goleman
Laura Fallon Lonnie Kaufman
Dina Levi Emily Serafy-Cox
Susan Voss



John A. Provost, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Camie Lamica, CPA
Business Administrator

March 10, 2020

Dear Caregivers:

There are still no reported cases of COVID-19 in Hampshire County, Northampton, or our schools. Nevertheless, we have made the decision to move from the mitigation/prevention phase to the preparedness phase of our response to this health concern. We know that you rely upon the schools and that any prolonged school closure would cause significant disruptions to your lives. We are taking aggressive preventative measures to mitigate the potential for school closure. We have also heard some community concerns about meeting the nutritional needs of our students in the event of school closure and are consulting with the USDA on our options.

We will be adding an additional cleaning solution to our current disinfection regimen. In addition to Terminator, the disinfectant currently used in our schools, we will be deploying Durisan for personal and surface cleaning. Durisan will be used in various forms including hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, and an electrostatic mist that is sprayed on surfaces. Until shipments of Durisan arrive, we will be distributing Terminator to classrooms. We are asking everyone to help us keep students and staff safe by spraying down high-touch surfaces at the end of each school day. We will also be deploying additional hand sanitizer systems in the schools. We will also be asking families and staff to report symptoms of illness when calling in sick. No personally identifiable information will be shared. However, our safety plan requires us to help monitor potential disease spread by reported statistical information data about absences to the health department.

At the recommendation of the Northampton Health Department, we are canceling any field trip beyond walking distance and all large public gatherings held in our schools. The JFK Band Concerts scheduled for tonight and tomorrow have been canceled. Students will still perform the pieces they have learned. The program will be videotaped for parents and community members. The NHS Musical, *The Sound of Music* will be postponed until it is felt that it is safer to hold large

public gatherings in our community. We will also contact all groups with approved building use requests. Permissions anticipated gatherings of more than 100 individuals will be revoked.

While COVID-19 is a public health concern, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Massachusetts Department of Public Health continue to report that the immediate risk to the general public remains low as of this date. We continue to recommend hand washing, cough and sneeze etiquette (for example: coughing or sneezing into a tissue or your sleeves and not into your hands, discard tissues then wash hands), and disinfection of common surface areas as best practices to prevent the spread of this virus and other pathogens. We are also encouraging individuals who feel sick to stay home for 24 hours after fever or signs of fever cease without the use of fever-reducing medicines.

As a reminder, anyone who is concerned they may have had contact with COVID-19 should begin by **calling** their health care provider or insurance helpline and remaining at home until receiving further direction.

As this situation continues to unfold, we will keep you informed. The ever-changing nature of this health situation can provoke fear. Let us all continue to treat each other with kindness and empathy during this difficult time

Sincerely,

John Provost, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Lisa Safron, BSN, RN, NCSN
Interim Director of Health, Safety, and Equity Programs

For more information on coronavirus, the following websites are available with up-to-date information:

The CDC's website: <https://www.cdc.gov>

Northampton Public Health website: <https://www.northampton.gov>

ESCUELAS PÚBLICAS DE NORTHAMPTON

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Susan Voss



John A. Provost, Ed.D.
Superintendente

Camie Lamica, CPA.
Administradora de Negocios

10 de marzo de 2020

Estimados Cuidadores:

Todavía no hay casos informados de COVID-19 en los condados de Hampshire, Northampton, ni en nuestras escuelas. Sin embargo, hemos tomado la decisión de pasar de la fase de mitigación/prevenición a la fase de preparación de nuestra respuesta a este problema de salud. Sabemos que usted confía en las escuelas y que cualquier cierre prolongado de las escuelas podría causar interrupciones significativas en sus vidas. Estamos tomando medidas preventivas agresivas para mitigar el potencial de cierre de las escuelas. También hemos escuchado algunas preocupaciones de la comunidad acerca de satisfacer las necesidades nutricionales de nuestros estudiantes en caso de cierre de las escuelas y estamos consultando con el USDA sobre nuestras opciones.

Agregaremos una solución de limpieza adicional a nuestro régimen de desinfección actual. Además de Terminator, el desinfectante que se usa actualmente en nuestras escuelas, implementaremos Durisan para la limpieza personal y de las superficies. Durisan se usará en varias formas, incluyendo desinfectante para las manos, toallitas desinfectantes y una niebla electrostática que se rocía sobre las superficies. Hasta que lleguen los envíos de Durisan, estaremos distribuyendo Terminator a las aulas. Estamos pidiendo a todos que nos ayuden a mantener seguros a los estudiantes y al personal rociando superficies de alto contacto al final de cada día escolar. Además implementaremos sistemas adicionales de desinfectante para las manos en las escuelas. También les pediremos a las familias y al personal que informen síntomas de la enfermedad cuando llamen para avisar que están enfermos. No se compartirá información de identificación personal. Sin embargo, nuestro plan de seguridad requiere que ayudemos a controlar la posible propagación de la enfermedad dando a conocer los datos de información estadística relacionada con las ausencias al Departamento de Salud.

Por recomendación del Departamento de Salud de Northampton, estamos cancelando cualquier excursión que sea más allá de una distancia a pie, y todas las grandes reuniones públicas efectuadas en nuestras escuelas. Los Conciertos de la Banda de JFK programados para esta noche y mañana han sido cancelados. Los estudiantes seguirán interpretando las piezas que han aprendido. El programa será grabado en vídeo para los padres y los miembros de la comunidad. El Musical de NHS, *El Sonido de la Música* (The Sound of Music), se pospondrá hasta que se considere más seguro celebrar grandes reuniones públicas en nuestra comunidad. También nos pondremos en contacto con todos los grupos con solicitudes aprobadas para uso del edificio. Se revocarán los permisos de reuniones donde se anticipe que vendrán más de 100 personas.

Si bien COVID-19 es un problema de salud pública, los Centros para el Control de Enfermedades (CDC) y el Departamento de Salud Pública de Massachusetts continúan informando que el riesgo inmediato para el público en general sigue siendo bajo hasta esta fecha. Continuamos recomendando el lavado de manos, y la etiqueta al toser o estornudar (por ejemplo: toser o estornudar en un pañuelo de papel o en las mangas de la ropa y no en las manos, desechar los pañuelos y luego lavarse

las manos), y la desinfección de las superficies comunes, como las mejores prácticas para prevenir la propagación de este virus y de otros patógenos. También alentamos a las personas que se sienten enfermas a quedarse en la casa durante 24 horas después que la fiebre, o los signos de fiebre, cesen sin el uso de medicamentos para reducir la fiebre.

Como recordatorio, cualquier persona que esté preocupada por haber tenido contacto con el COVID-19 debe comenzar **llamando por teléfono** a su proveedor de atención médica o a la línea de ayuda del seguro, y quedarse en la casa hasta recibir más instrucciones.

A medida que esta situación continúe desarrollándose, los mantendremos informados. La naturaleza siempre cambiante de esta situación de salud puede provocar miedo. Sigamos tratándonos mutuamente con amabilidad y empatía durante este momento difícil.

Atentamente,

John Provost, Ed.D.
Superintendente de Escuelas

Lisa Safron, BSN, RN, NCSN
Directora Interina de Programas de Salud, Seguridad y Equidad

Para obtener más información sobre el coronavirus, los siguientes sitios web están disponibles con información actualizada:

Sitio web del CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov>

Sitio web de las Escuelas Públicas de Northampton: <https://www.northampton.gov>

NORTHAMPTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

212 Main Street, Room 200
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SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Honorable David Narkewicz, Mayor
Rebecca Busansky Sean Condon
Roni Gold Kaia Goleman
Laura Fallon Lonnie Kaufman
Dina Levi Emily Serafy-Cox
Susan Voss



John A. Provost, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Camie Lamica, CPA
Business Administrator

March 12, 2020

Dear Caregivers:

The World Health Organization has officially declared the coronavirus outbreak to be a pandemic. While there have been no official cases in our area, that is likely to change in the near future. Our School Physician Dr. Johanson has asked me to share the following information with all families:

As we have explained in previous messages we are asking anyone who is concerned they may have had contact with COVID-19 should begin by **calling** their health care provider or insurance helpline and remaining at home until receiving further direction. At this time, most individuals will not be seen in providers' offices because our local physicians need to prioritize caring for more seriously ill patients. COVID-19 has been found to cause mild symptoms in children, similar to a cold, so the focus is on preventing spread to older individuals who are more at risk. For this reason, we will no longer request a doctor's note for students who are absent.

In the days ahead, some members of our learning community may self-quarantine or require isolation. The term isolation is reserved for individuals who have a contagious disease and have been distanced from other people. In contrast, individuals who self-quarantine may NOT have COVID-19. They may be asked to self-quarantine NOT because they have the virus but because they have had potential exposure to the virus.

Several families have asked how the School Lunch Program could continue to support their children's nutritional needs in the event of an extended school closure. We have reached out to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) for guidance. Massachusetts has issued statewide emergency feeding waivers. However, **Northampton is not included within the emergency waiver zone at this time.** The waivers have been reserved for districts identified in areas of high food insecurity. Knowing the devastating impact this could have on our families, we

will continue to advocate for permission to operate an emergency feeding site should it become necessary to close the schools.

Social media has spread some misinformation about the health status of members of our learning community. This is referred to as quarantine-bullying. We ask you to help prevent this hurtful behavior by avoiding online discussions of other's personal decisions. You should not assume you understand the reasons for anyone else's decisions.

We continue to communicate with the Northampton Health Department several times a day to ensure we keep our community safe. In addition to canceling large meetings and asking individuals who feel sick to stay home from school, the increased sanitation measures discussed in previous updates continue to be the recommended practices at this time.

Sincerely,

John Provost, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Lisa Safron, BSN, RN, NCSN
Interim Director of Health, Safety, and Equity Programs

For more information on coronavirus, the following websites are available with up-to-date information:

The CDC's website: <https://www.cdc.gov>

Northampton Public Health website: <https://www.northampton.gov>