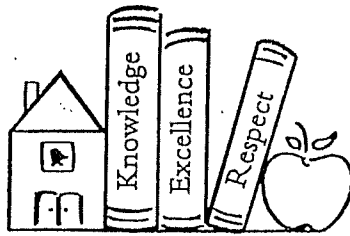


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2/27/20

Burgess Elementary School

Dear Families,

Superintendent Dr. Erin Nosek would like you to be aware that the Department of Public Health (DPH) has issued a recent newsletter and we wanted to share updated information with you. There has been an increased focus on the Influenza and Coronavirus, now known as COVID-19. At this time Massachusetts has one confirmed case of COVID-19 and the risk to our residents remains low. The vast majority of reported cases are in China.

The DPH recommends that schools should follow their regular cleaning program. Our custodial staff is well-trained to use appropriate disinfectants in a safe and effective manner. It is also recommended that schools strictly follow their protocol for Influenza. This includes that students and staff must remain at home until fever-free for 24 hours without receiving fever-reducing medication.

Precautions to help prevent colds and the flu can also help protect against COVID-19. DPH recommends that schools continue education about good hygiene. It is helpful for all of us to practice the following:

- Wash hands with soap and running water for at least 20 seconds. If unable to wash, alcohol-based hand sanitizers are effective.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth when in public.
- Always cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve. (Using your hand to cover is not recommended.)
- Avoid contact with people who are sick and it is important to stay home if you are sick.

We are staying in close contact with the Department of Public Health and will communicate any changes. DPH has created a website updated constantly with the latest guidance, including printable fact sheets in multiple languages. Visit: www.mass.gov/2019coronavirus.

Please contact your physician if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kathleen E. Pelley, Principal'.

All students, regardless of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability or homelessness, have equal access to the general education program and the full range of any occupational/vocational education programs offered by the district.