



# Marshfield Public Schools

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Dear MPSD Families, Caregivers & Staff,

Good evening. We write to update you on where the district stands with regards to the Coronavirus. We have been working closely with the Marshfield Department of Public Health and heeding guidelines set forth by MA DPH and the CDC since our last correspondence. As a reminder, the following steps are continually being promoted, and we urge you to do the same at home:

- Practice good hand hygiene. Wash your hands often and thoroughly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands. Use Alcohol-based hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available.
- When coughing and sneezing, cover your mouth and nose with a tissue. You can also cough or sneeze into your sleeve. Throw used tissues in the trash and immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid sharing drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, dishes, towels or other items. Wash these items thoroughly with soap and water after use.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick whenever possible.
- Practice other good health habits: Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at home, work or school, especially when someone is ill. Get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids, and eat nutritious food.
- Keep children home from school when they are ill. If your child has any of the following symptoms please keep them home from school: temperature greater than 100.4, coughing, vomiting, diarrhea, any rash not yet diagnosed by a physician, red or pink itchy eye, and/or drainage from eye, and any contagious illness such as chicken pox, strep throat or flu.

We understand that many children still have a number of questions about coronavirus, especially in the younger grades. We have inserted a link below to the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) that touches on strategies you can use at home when talking to your child about the Coronavirus. We hope you find it helpful.

[Talking to Children about Covid-19](#)

Some have also asked if the district is cancelling any international or domestic trips for this spring. As you may know, On March 4, Governor Charlie Baker and HHS Secretary Marylou Sudders **urged** all Massachusetts schools, including elementary and secondary schools and colleges and universities, to cancel upcoming, organized international trips at this time. The school committee will discuss international and domestic travel at their next regularly scheduled meeting. At that time, a decision will be made on our students taking part in international or domestic travel. We will share

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information on that decision once it is made.

In addition, there have been some who want to know if children (or family members) of people who are under self-quarantine should come to school. We have reached out to the MA Department of Public Health and they informed us that a child (or family member) of someone who is self-quarantined and asymptomatic is in fact, permitted to attend school under DPH protocols.

Finally, members of the district leadership team sat in on a conference call with Commissioner of the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education, Mr. Jeffrey Riley on Friday. The Commissioner touched on a number of topics, including but not limited to the following:

- Updates on the state's current planning for different scenarios as the situation evolves.
- Urging school districts to cancel all international trips, including all international spring trips. He made it clear that they do not have such a recommendation for domestic travel and that districts should make their own decisions regarding trips within the country. He did add that it is a possibility that there may, in the future, be a need to cancel domestic trips, but at this point it remains up to individual districts.
- The mandatory days of school remains at 180. DESE followed up today with updated information on the number of school days:
  - All days lost to health, weather, or safety emergencies between the first day of the school year and March 31 must be made up by rescheduling full school days to ensure a 180-day school year.
  - All days lost to health, weather, or safety emergencies between April 1 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 schedule additional school days.
  - Districts will not be expected to make up any days lost to health, weather, or safety emergencies that occur after June 1.
- Remote learning opportunities for students and educators in lieu of school days (previously called "Blizzard Bags" in the investigatory stages) are not an option they are considering at this time.
- The DESE team would work together and meet to discuss the effect possible absences could have on MCAS and School and District Accountability.
- Stressed that schools work closely with their local health departments when health questions arise. (We have been in contact with our health department on almost a daily basis)
- The need for and shortage of cleaning supplies and equipment. The state is looking into this issue and more information is forthcoming. (In meeting with our custodians, we are in good shape with regards to cleaning supplies and equipment. In addition, they are working tirelessly to keep our schools safe and clean.)
- DESE providing more information this week regarding the handling of public events where large numbers of people gather.

Thank you so much for your patience as the district and town work through this very complex matter. As we noted in our last correspondence, the health and wellbeing of our students and staff is of utmost importance and we will continue to share new information with you, as necessary, about this evolving situation. If you have additional questions, you can also

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call the Dept. of Public Health Epidemiology line, 24 hours a day/7 days a week, at 617.983.6800. You can also refer to the DPH website at [www.mass.gov/2019coronavirus](http://www.mass.gov/2019coronavirus) or the CDC website at [CDC Coronavirus 2019](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/).

Thank you and have a good night.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey W. Granatino  
Superintendent

Jane Landry  
Nurse Leader

Robert Valery  
Marshfield Director of Public Health

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