

Dear Boston Public Schools Community,

It is the top priority of Boston Public Schools (BPS) to keep our students and staff safe and healthy in our schools. As you may know, news about the coronavirus continues to evolve and unfortunately the virus has continued to spread. However, the threat to Boston remains low. Despite the low risk in Boston, we are preparing for any developments. BPS is monitoring the situation closely and is in constant communication with our city partners at the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC).

As a reminder from our two previous winter illness letters to families and staff, here are tips to staying healthy and protecting yourself from the flu and other respiratory illnesses:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- If you do not have access to soap and water, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick

If you have cold-like symptoms, you can help protect others by:

- Staying home while you are sick
- Avoiding close contact with others
- Covering your mouth and nose with a tissue (or arm) when you cough or sneeze, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands
- Cleaning and disinfecting objects and surfaces

Over the February break, BPS custodial staff performed a thorough, deep cleaning of all school buildings. Our school nurses and BPS Health Services continue to collaborate with BPHC to determine if any targeted cleaning is needed for schools experiencing a high number of students with winter illnesses, like the flu or common cold.

For the most up-to-date and reliable information on the coronavirus, please visit the BPHC website at www.bphc.org. If you have questions or need assistance, you can contact BPS Health Services at 617-635-6788. For additional tips and resources, please visit the BPS Health Services Department website at bostonpublicschools.org/healthservices.

We will continue to keep you updated as BPHC guidance and recommendations evolve.

Thank you,



Dr. Brenda Cassellius
Superintendent