



Wellesley Public Schools Department of Nursing Services

January 27, 2020

Dear WPS Families and Staff,

I want to share the following information with the entire Wellesley school community regarding the coronavirus. There has been a significant amount of publicity regarding the virus in the press and calls of concern have been raised by parents in the district around travel and the celebration of the Chinese New Year. We also had a group of High School students attend a model United Nations conference at Yale this past weekend where a Chinese student at the conference developed a fever and cough and tested positive for Influenza A. In an abundance of caution, this student was also tested for the coronavirus (results are pending) and the conference was closed early.

Things you should know:

The Wellesley students attending the conference were not assigned to any of the committees nor housed in the same hotel as the student in question. Their exposure was negative and they are all back in school today.

The CDC continues to publish updated material almost daily on the outbreak in China, how it is monitoring the disease here in the United States and any specific action needed to be taken by communities. [CDC](#)

The WPS will continue to take direction from the Wellesley Board of Health and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and will communicate any information to families and staff if necessary. The current risk to our community is low.

All WPS nurses continue to track and trend illness in every school and travel history is always a component of their nursing assessment of any ill student.

The coronavirus is airborne and spread by droplet route / direct contact with others: close personal contact with an infected individual, touching a contaminated surface and then touching your nose, eyes, mouth before washing your hands.

The incubation period is about two weeks from the time of exposure.

Coronavirus symptoms include: runny nose, headache, cough, sore throat, fever and feeling unwell **AND A RECENT HISTORY** of travel to the Wuhan area in China or exposure to an individual with a known coronavirus infection.

Prevention is the same as other viruses: handwashing and keeping your hands away from eyes, nose and mouth.

Facilities management concentrates on cleaning frequently touched surfaces in all the buildings, especially this time of year during cold and flu season.

Handwashing, cough and sneeze etiquette is constantly being reinforced in all the schools by the nurses.

The Wellesley Board of Health is in the process of updating the Town's website with additional information from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) as it becomes available.

Anytime there is an outbreak of a virus or illness it can be very unsettling for families and staff. Keeping everyone informed, safe and healthy is always our priority. This situation is evolving and if any special instructions develop, it will be communicated to all members of the school community.

Please consult with your school nurse if you have questions or concerns specific to your child.

Stay well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Corridan".

Linda Corridan, M.Ed, BSN, RN
Director of Nursing Services