



TOWN OF NORFOLK

SELECT BOARD

ONE LIBERTY LANE
NORFOLK, MASSACHUSETTS

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Town Administrator

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March 9, 2020

To all Norfolk residents,

I am writing to provide you with an update on the novel coronavirus situation in our area and on the preparedness and prevention steps being taken by the Town and its School Districts to respond to this worldwide health concern.

There are currently no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Norfolk. There are also no cases in Plainville & Wrentham.

The Norfolk and King Philip School districts have been made aware of one student and one Norfolk staff member who are currently in self-quarantine, per the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) after returning from international travel. We have been informed that the student is doing well at this time and is not showing any symptoms of COVID-19. The staff member is being tested for the virus, although did not meet the initial criteria for testing.

The Norfolk school district was also informed of two other students who are in self-quarantine as a result of a parents' potential exposure to the virus at a work-related event. Both students are also doing well and showing no symptoms at this time.

The Town and our school districts wish to reiterate that we are taking all possible steps and precautions in accordance with advice received by our public health officials as well as the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. A decision to quarantine comes from the local or state boards of health or a personal primary care physician or healthcare provider.

The Town of Norfolk and Norfolk Public Schools facilities staff, led by Director Matt Haffner, have been extremely proactive and thorough in developing and implementing a comprehensive cleaning and disinfecting program. The Town is fortunate to have three industrial size electrostatic spray machines and has been spraying and disinfecting on a nightly basis. Over the weekend both school facilities were comprehensively and thoroughly cleaned and sanitized with hospital quality disinfection products. Similarly, the King Philip schools were subject to a thorough cleaning over the weekend, also using electrostatic spraying machines. Our Town buildings have also been subject to much more intensive cleaning and employees have been provided with products to disinfect work areas as an additional measure. Furthermore, our police and fire personnel are fully prepared to respond to any medical and emergency calls with the appropriate protective equipment and procedures.

We have an outstanding facilities staff, and its members take great pride in ensuring safe, clean and healthy buildings for all members of community. The facilities team has been fully trained in proper methods for cleaning and sanitizing to prevent the spread of infectious disease. In addition to cleaning all town and school facilities, our facilities team also cleaned and disinfected all Norfolk buses in partnership with Holmes transportation.

The risk to residents of contracting COVID-19 remains low, according to the DPH. At the same time, the Town is monitoring the emerging situation closely and is taking all possible steps to protect the health and safety of our residents, students, staff and families.

Local, state and federal health officials are encouraging everyone to take the following precautions to prevent infectious diseases, such as the flu and COVID-19, from spreading:

- Wash hands frequently, with soap and water, for at least 20 seconds.
- When sick yourself, stay home to protect others and practice social distancing.
- Always cover your cough or sneeze.

Anyone who is experiencing a fever and respiratory illness and is concerned they have either come into contact with the virus or traveled to an affected country within the last 14 days is advised to contact their primary health care provider.

For more information, I encourage you to visit the DPH website by [clicking here](#) and the CDC's website by [clicking here](#).

The Town and its school districts will provide additional updates in a timely manner as any new information becomes available. Thank you for your patience and partnership as we work through this situation together.

Sincerely,

Blythe C. Robinson

Town Administrator