



## WESTWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

*Honoring Tradition, Inspiring Excellence, Shaping the Future*

EMILY J. PARKS  
Superintendent of Schools

### COVID-19 UPDATE FOR FAMILIES

March 10, 2020

Dear Westwood Families:

As I'm sure you know, the public received some new guidance during the Governor's press conference this afternoon. In addition, Superintendents anticipate receiving updated guidance from the MA Department of Public Health and the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education shortly. In the meantime, however, in consultation with our local Public Health Director, the District has decided to cancel some events and field trips that are scheduled for this week. Principals will communicate directly about these events, since most of them are building-based.

At the moment, we are cancelling trips this week that involve students participating in large, public events outside of the community (such as attending the BSO) or destinations that are very interactive (e.g. museums with hands on exhibits). I know that many students will be disappointed by these cancellations and I regret having to make this decision. We will do our best to reschedule these events in the future. However, absent additional guidance, I felt the need to make a quick, prudent decision.

In the next couple of days, we should receive clear guidance from the MA Department of Public Health and the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. We will implement their recommendations going forward.

At this point, we intend to move forward with internal extracurricular events, such as the high school musical. We intend to clean the auditorium in between performances. Unfortunately, therefore, we will only be able to have one performance on Saturday. We are electing to keep the Saturday matinee and cancel the Saturday evening performance. In addition, we urge community members to follow the advice coming from the CDC and the Governor that individuals who are sick, immunocompromised, or elderly avoid large events for their protection. We wish that we could video the performance for broadcast, but doing so would violate copyright.

This is a rapidly changing situation. We will continue to monitor the situation and update the community in collaboration with our Board of Health Division.

Sincerely,

Emily J. Parks  
Superintendent