



## WESTWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

*Honoring Tradition, Inspiring Excellence, Shaping the Future*

EMILY J. PARKS  
Superintendent of Schools

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

March 4, 2020

Dear Westwood Families,

I am writing with some important information to share. Westwood Public Schools received a report this afternoon that an employee at the high school was experiencing flu-like symptoms. The employee had been in brief contact with another adult who had traveled to Italy in early February. That individual is not showing any symptoms of illness. The employee was evaluated by doctors and has been released to recuperate at home. The employee will remain out of school until medically cleared to return.

The School District is in close contact with local and state officials, including members of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and has received official guidance from these authorities about how to proceed. To be clear, the Department of Public Health does not consider this a case of exposure to COVID-19 (the Coronavirus) and their protocol does not call for testing this employee for COVID-19 at this time.

We understand there are concerns and rumors in the community regarding COVID-19. We want to urge caution with regard to rumors. If we ever receive information of a confirmed case of the virus, we will communicate that information to you ASAP. In addition, I will communicate with you regularly to update you on the school's preparedness so that you will have the most up-to-date information.

We share the concerns expressed by many parents about COVID-19. The District is continuing to monitor the health of our students and staff. We are taking additional measures with regard to cleaning our schools and offices so we can maintain a safe learning environment.

If you have questions about COVID-19, the MA Department of Public Health website contains the latest information: <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/department-of-public-health>

Sincerely,

Emily J. Parks  
Superintendent