



Groton-Dunstable Regional School District
P.O. Box 729, Groton, MA 01450-0729 |Tel.: 978.448.5505

Coronavirus Update March 12, 2020

The district has been in ongoing contact with the Center for Disease Control, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, and the district physician to address the ongoing coronavirus outbreak. Below, we have frequently asked questions that can help to address concerns. We will send an update each evening at 5pm with more information, or as it becomes available.

Question	Answer
What are the requirements for self-quarantine?	<p>As a result of the outbreak of COVID19, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the office of the Governor of the state of Massachusetts have ordered school districts to follow the guidelines of the CDC as to when a staff or student should be asked to self-quarantine. A summarization of those guidelines are below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Any student or staff member who has tested positive is required to self-quarantine for a minimum of 14 days.● Any staff member who is exhibiting symptoms of the virus (fever, coughing, chest congestion etc.) should contact his/her health professional and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health prior to reporting to school. Any staff member not cleared by those medical experts will be asked to self-quarantine.● Parents of a student who is exhibiting symptoms of the virus (fever, coughing, chest congestion etc.) should contact their student's health professional and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health prior to the student reporting to school. Any student not cleared by those medical experts will be asked to self-quarantine for a minimum of fourteen days.● Any staff member who has someone in their household that has been exposed to the COVID19 virus and is experiencing symptoms or has tested positive from a



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	<p>formal test for the COVID19 virus will be asked to self-quarantine for fourteen days.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Any student who has someone in their home that has been exposed to the COVID19 virus and is experiencing symptoms or has tested positive from a formal test for the COVID19 virus will be asked to self-quarantine for fourteen days.• Any student or staff member that travels to a country with a Level 3 or higher designation by the CDC will be asked to self-quarantine for fourteen days. <p>Dr. Coleman (Groton-Dunstable District Physician) contributed, "If a person is quarantined with symptoms then family members/close contacts are quarantined as well pending advice/testing from DPH."</p>
<p>What are the district's responsibilities for sending work home for students who are quarantined?</p>	<p>If a student is required to be removed by quarantine by CDC recommendation (see previous question), the district will provide work as they do now when students are ill. Assessments will be made-up upon student return.</p> <p>If a parent elects to keep kids home indefinitely without guidance from the Massachusetts Department of Health, families will need to withdraw students and provide a homeschool education.</p>
<p>If we need to cancel school, how will we ensure all students can access high quality learning?</p>	<p>The Commissioner has said that he will not allow virtual learning days to count toward school days because of the barriers brought forward during the Blizzard Bag proposals. Most notably, a concern is lack of internet access and inability to provide special education services.</p> <p>The did relax the requirements for 180 days of school (and 900 hours of instruction) in light of the coronavirus outbreak. That essentially means that if we are required to close, the curriculum time will not have to be made up after the 185th day of school on the calendar (the school calendar with 5 snow days included).</p> <p>Any decision about school dismissal or cancellation of school events will be made in coordination with local health officials.</p>



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<p>If students are quarantined, what are the expectations for special education services?</p>	<p>If students with disabilities are quarantined under medical guidance, the special education department will reach out to parents and discuss on a case by case basis.</p>
<p>Will we cancel or postpone events such as field trips, prom, and sporting events?</p>	<p>Effective immediately, Thursday, March 12, the district will cancel all indoor district activities outside of the school day, as well as field trips. The school will still be in session until health experts advise us otherwise. This necessary action is an effective way to disrupt widespread infection. This includes clubs, sports, community education activities, parent/teacher conferences. The Peter Twomey Youth Center (PTYC) will still provide before and after school care until health experts advise us otherwise. Indoor after school and evening activities will be cancelled for a minimum of 30 days. This includes but is not limited to high school open house, chorus and band concerts across the district, elementary plays, spring play at the high school, and non-student participation in book fairs across the district. Parents should reach out to their students' teachers by phone or email to set up parent conference by phone or Google Hangout.</p>
<p>Will we welcome visitors to our school?</p>	<p>Many college students visit former teachers and classmates. Given that many colleges are sending home students, we can predict there will be frequent visitors and recommend we suspend any/all unscheduled visits to any of our schools.</p>
<p>What are the cleaning supplies used by the District?</p>	<p>The disinfectant cleaning product we are using is Maxima/Uncide, manufactured by Brulin. We also used the Clorox 360 system to deep clean all surfaces the week of March 9, 2020.</p>
<p>What sanitation supplies are used by the district? (i.e. hand soap, hand sanitizer, paper towels, facial tissue, etc.)</p>	<p>We have provided Clorox wipes so that commonly used surfaces (e.g., keyboards, desks, remote controls) can be wiped down by students and staff before each use. Additionally, Purel hand sanitizer and Kleenex facial tissue have been supplied to all classrooms.</p>



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<p>What is the cleaning schedule for all facilities?</p>	<p>See the cleaning schedule here.</p>
<p>What is the cleaning process for surfaces, materials, equipment, and electronics?</p>	<p>There are many precautionary measures being taken by SJ Services, our custodial contractor, and our own maintenance staff to ensure our school buildings are as clean and safe as possible. SJ Services has always used disinfectant cleaning products on all surfaces in the restrooms. They are now using this same disinfectant to clean door handles, stair railings, push plates, water fountains and other touchpointss. In addition, they have begun using the disinfectant product to wash hard floors in classrooms, offices and hallways. Esthetically, the floors will not be as shiny, but they will be disinfected.</p>
<p>What is the protocol for staff members or students to report when areas are not clean?</p>	<p>Staff or students can put in a helpdesk ticket from any internal device at http://helpdesk/portal</p>
<p>What is the protocol for staff with student(s) who display symptoms consistent with the COVID-19?</p>	<p>Students and staff who become sick at school or who arrive at school sick are sent home as soon as possible. Sick students and staff will be kept separate from well students and staff until sick students and staff can be sent home.</p> <p>Note: According to CDC Guidelines, schools are not expected to screen students or staff to identify cases of COVID-19. The majority of respiratory illnesses are not COVID-19. If a community (or more specifically, a school) has cases of COVID-19, local health officials will help identify those individuals and will follow up on the next steps.</p>
<p>What is the protocol in the event a staff member, student, or parent test positive for COVID-19?</p>	<p>The district will work with the local health department and other relevant leadership to communicate the possible COVID-19 exposure to the school community. In such a circumstance, it is critical we maintain the confidentiality of the student or staff member as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act.</p>