



# Winthrop Public Schools

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*Lisa A. Howard*  
*Superintendent of Schools*

Dear Winthrop Families,

I am writing to share updated information from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH), the Winthrop Department of Public Health and the Winthrop Public Schools related to the COVID-19 (coronavirus). **There are no known cases or suspected cases of the virus in Winthrop currently.**

I would also like to take the opportunity to make sure you are aware of the steps we are taking in our schools to reduce the spread of viruses, including:

- Encouraging students/staff to wash their hands during the school day, follow the cough/sneeze protocol and remain home if sick.
- Continuing to follow our cleaning protocols in school buildings, and cleaning and disinfecting common touchpoints more regularly.
- Continuing to work with the Winthrop Department of Public Health through the town's Board of Health to consider additional contingency plans should COVID-19 becomes prevalent in our community.
- Reviewing daily CDC/DPH communications.
- Conducted a PROACTIVE deeper cleaning of all 4 School Buildings this weekend (March 7&8).
- Reviewing and updating our Emergency Operation Plans with Police, Fire and the Town Health Department.
- Monitoring staff and student attendance daily.
- Remaining in daily communication with the Town Health Department for updates regarding the Coronavirus.

Concern over COVID-19 can make children and families anxious. We encourage parents and staff to use the resources listed below for guidance when talking with our children about it. An important message is for children to know that adults at home and school are taking care of their health and safety. And, school and health officials are being *especially* careful to make sure as few people as possible get sick. Please encourage children to reach out to a trusted adult if they have concerns.

**Resources for talking with children about COVID-19:**

<https://www.tolerance.org/magazine/speaking-up-against-racism-around-the-new-coronavirus>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/children-faq.html>

**Additional resources related to COVID-19:**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/>

<https://www.mass.gov/orgs/department-of-public-health>

All of us can play an important part in keeping our school community safe. Please remember to keep your student home if they are sick. Please reach out to your student's Principal to arrange for schoolwork if they will be out of school for the reasons noted in this letter.

Respectfully,

*Lisa A Howard*

Lisa A. Howard, M.Ed.

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