

March 9, 2020

Dear Sunrise Community,

I have been closely monitoring health advisories being issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MA DPH), and any alerts from the Franklin Public School and the Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School, regarding the COVID-19 (coronavirus).

While this is a public health concern, the CDC and MA DPH continue to report that the immediate risk to the general public remains low at this time. As we may see students in the overall community with illnesses such as flu and strep throat, we would like to remind the Sunrise parent community of our guidelines as to when a child should be kept home from school:

1. The child should be fever-free for 24 hours without the aid of a fever reducing medication, such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen. Any temperature 100.0 degrees F or greater is considered a fever.
2. The child should be free of vomiting/diarrhea for 24 hours before returning to school. A child who has been ill during the night may feel slightly better in the morning and even ask to go to school. However, the child will likely experience symptoms of illness later, will be tired from loss of sleep, and will still be contagious to other children.
3. The child diagnosed with strep throat/scarlet fever should remain home for the first 24 hours of antibiotic treatment. A child remains contagious until he/she has been on antibiotics for 24 hours.
4. The child diagnosed with bacterial conjunctivitis should remain home for the first 24 hours of treatment and until there is no more drainage from the eyes.
5. Consider keeping a child with thick or constant nasal discharge at home. Very few younger children can effectively blow their noses and wash their hands afterwards. A child with the above symptoms may quickly spread the illness to other children.

Additionally, please see information about hand washing, on the CDC's Hand washing website. This is an everyday habit that can help prevent the spread of several viruses.

Sunrise continues to be proactive regarding the daily cleansing of our environment. This includes washing and sanitizing all the tables, chairs, bathrooms, door handles, railings, shelves, trash lids, cubbies, etc. Regarding the school's hand washing policy, both the staff and students are instructed to wash their hands once they enter the school, and wash several times per day (before and after snack, after recess, after toileting, after wiping/blowing nose etc.). I encourage families to continue washing your children's outdoor clothing, back packs, lunch bags, and children's cuddle items as often as possible.

The Sunrise staff takes any illness very seriously and we will continue to be diligent with monitoring student's hand washing procedures to ensure proper washing and we will continue to keep our school and playground environment as safe and healthy as possible by upholding our cleaning procedures and standards daily!

Sunrise will continue to monitor the guidance provided by the CDC and Massachusetts Department of Public Health. If warranted, the school will be in touch with further communication. For your reference, you may wish to view the following links, which are providing regular updates and recommendations:

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

<https://www.mass.gov/guides/information-on-the-outbreak-of-2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19>

<https://www.mass.gov/guides/information-on-the-outbreak-of-2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19#-printable-fact-sheets->

Please feel free to contact me anytime with any further concerns or questions.

Sincerely,

Andrea Rossick

Head of School

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