



Abby Kelley Foster Charter Public School

10 New Bond Street Worcester, MA 01606

Phone: (508) 854-8400 Fax: (508) 854-8484

www.akfcs.org

Executive Director's Update

February 27, 2020

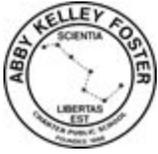
With the recent announcements at the State and Federal levels regarding the spread of respiratory illnesses specifically the Flu, and Coronavirus (COVID-19) we at Abby Kelley continue our efforts to prevent the spread of illnesses within our School's community.

This week the Executive Office of Health and Human Services Department of Public Health reached out to School Administrators throughout the State to inform us that the risk to Massachusetts residents remains low for Coronavirus, while the risk for Influenza (Flu) remains high. The Department of Public Health here in Massachusetts and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on the National level monitors these matters daily. We receive updates and will respond accordingly, as needed, should these circumstances change.

What can we do to further safeguard the Abby Kelley community?

- Frequent and thorough hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds is recommended. Hand sanitizer is an option if soap and water are not available. It is highly encouraged that one not touch their eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- "High Touch" surfaces (railings, doors, sinks) should be cleaned daily. This has always been and will continue to be the practice of our Facilities staff. These practices are encouraged to continue in your homes as well.
- Everyone is reminded of the importance of good coughing and sneezing etiquette; coughing and sneezing in one's elbow, using and disposing of a tissue, washing your hands if you cough or sneeze (on them).
- Abby Kelley students and staff are asked to **stay home if you are sick, please**. Anyone who presents with a fever **MUST** remain out of school and should be **fever free for 24 hours without medication** before returning to school.
- Our Facilities Department provides nightly cleaning to all buildings. Since the return from the Holiday Break in January, our Facilities staff every Friday evening is providing additional cleaning with Earthsafe PurTabs (Broad Spectrum Disinfectant tablet) which is effective against microorganisms. The tablet is dropped into a machine where it mixes with water. The machine blows out a fine mist which is sprayed across all surfaces, killing germs.

Abby Kelley Foster Charter Public School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, or homelessness and all students have equal access to the general education program and the full range of any occupational/vocational education programs offered by the district.



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- Within our classrooms teachers, staff and students are continually cleaning surfaces (student desks, chairs, tables) and using hand sanitizers. Our Facilities Department, had previously planned to install Foaming Hand Sanitizer Dispensers in our classrooms. This has been done in the Elementary School, is in progress at the Middle School and on order for the High School.
- Everyone is encouraged to keep their Emergency Contact Information with the School updated as well. This can be done with student's teachers, with your School's Nurse or Administrative Assistant.

Again, at this time there is a greater risk of getting the Flu within the State of Massachusetts, than Coronavirus. The preventative measures outlined above are strong habits we encourage **everyone** in the Abby Kelley community to adopt in their day-to-day lives.

Please use these links for information about Coronavirus and other respiratory illnesses:

[Massachusetts Department of Public Health](#)

[Executive Office of Health and Human Services Department of Public Health Memo \(from 2/24/20\)](#)

[CDC Information regarding Children and the Coronavirus](#)

Thank you and please stay healthy!

Sincerely,

Brian Haas