



Abby Kelley Foster Charter Public School

10 New Bond Street Worcester, MA 01606

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

www.akfcs.org

Updated from Brian Haas, Executive Director regarding AKF and COVID-19

March 9, 2020

With the evolving news regarding COVID-19 (Coronavirus) I want to remind you of the preventative measures Abby Kelley continues to take in our buildings. Hand Sanitizer dispensers have been installed in each classroom at the Elementary and Middle Schools as well as common areas within these buildings. At the High School, Hand Sanitizer dispensers will be available in the Cafeteria, Nurse's Office, Guidance Offices and other common areas.

Thorough cleaning of each building continues, day and night. Each week, to disinfect our buildings, the Facilities staff are using Earthsafe PurTabs, which when mixed with water can be used to spray a fine mist over services, killing microorganisms.

Tracking our daily attendance numbers in each of our buildings, it is fair to say all of these efforts combined with your respect to keeping students home for 24 hours after being sick, are limiting the spread of germs within Abby Kelley.

As we have seen with this virus and others, they can disrupt even the best laid plans. Which brings me to some of our upcoming school activities.

The High School Musical; Opening Night is **Thursday, March 12th at 6:00 p.m.** and the curtain will be going up! In anticipation of the increased number of guests for this event, the Concert Hall will be disinfected prior to and after each performance this week. I hope you will come out and support our students on Opening Night or at their Friday night (March 13th) performance which begins at 7:00 p.m.

Other School events; At this time activities planned within our buildings this month are going ahead as scheduled; School Banking took place this morning in the Elementary and Middle Schools, the Elementary School's Movie Night and Middle School's PTO Meeting are happening this week as well.

MCAS; We are business as usual as our students prepare to take their exams. There have been no changes to the testing schedule from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) at this time. Please review the [school website](#) for specific testing dates. If there needs to be any changes, for any reason, you will be notified.

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.



Abby Kelley Foster Charter Public School

10 New Bond Street Worcester, MA 01606

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

www.akfcs.org

Travel; April Vacation is coming up. This tends to be a high travel time for all; staff and students. At this point countries with significant COVID-19 cases are not allowing travelers to specific areas areas, and/or have increased levels for [Travel Advisories](#). Domestic travel has not been affected. If you travel, you are encouraged more so than ever, to be vigilant about your personal steps to minimize the spread of germs.

180 Requirement; We are and will be held to this standard. As of March 9, 2020 Abby Kelley has used the allotted five snow days in our school calendar, meaning **any** days missed for **any** reason, **will be made up** at the end of the year, unless otherwise noted.

Externally I have spoken with AA Transportation, our bus company. They are in the process of disinfecting **all** of their busses. While busses are cleaned regularly, they have increased the frequency and type of cleaning materials used to that of “hospital grade.”

Abby Kelley has an Emergency Plan; we will use that if and when we have to. Please remain vigilant when it comes to the spread of germs. Our staff is continually reminding students of the need to cover and “catch” coughs and sneezes in tissues and elbows. We ask that you help us reinforce that message in your homes as well. This continues to be the best advice out there.

I have included links for various information about COVID-19, minimizing your own exposure to germs and notices/updates from federal and state agencies. I will continue to keep you updated as things change or I have new information to share.

Resources regarding COVID-19

Center for Disease Control: [Interim Guidance for Administrators of US Childcare Programs and K-12 Schools](#)

Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH): [Information on the COVIC-19 Outbreak](#)

The City of Worcester: [Public Health Updates](#)

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.