



Dear KIPP Families,

March 11, 2020

We are writing with an update on our preparation efforts and to provide timely and accurate information to students, staff and families regarding COVID-19 (Coronavirus). We will continue to follow the most up-to-date CDC and local health department guidelines on this issue. Please refer to the CDC website, [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/) for the most up to date information.

KIPP MA has a Pandemic Crisis Team that is actively monitoring and evaluating state and national agency guidelines. This team is in regular communication with health and education departments about our ongoing response. We will actively investigate concerns presented to us from staff, students, and families. Feel free to email [info@kipppma.org](mailto:info@kipppma.org) with your questions and concerns.

### **Emergency Preparedness**

In our effort to continue to ensure we have accurate information, this month we are sending home Emergency Contact Forms to every family. Please review the information we have on file, provide any missing information, and make necessary corrections. In an emergency it is imperative that we have appropriate contact information, including email addresses. Additionally, please take this opportunity to update any authorized pickups in case of an unexpected early dismissal. During an emergency we will **NOT** be able to update contact information. Therefore, in order to avoid any delay or reunification with your child, make sure Emergency Contact Forms are updated and returned to the school as soon as possible but no later than March 31, 2020. Additionally, any person picking up a student during an emergency dismissal must have identification and the identification must match the name on the authorized pick up form.

### **Information Regarding Travel and Self-Quarantine**

Currently, the CDC is recommending that anyone who has traveled to Level 3 countries (outside of the airport) should self-quarantine for 14 days. Please see the CDC website at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) > Information for Travel or [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/) for the most up to date travel information.

If your family needs to self-quarantine, please contact the school so we can provide the necessary educational materials for your child. If an individual decides to self-quarantine in the absence of actual diagnosis, we will respect their privacy and confidentiality. Individual instances will continue to be closely reviewed, but our policy will be to inform the community of confirmed cases of COVID-19 only. We have no confirmed cases of a COVID-19 diagnosis or required self-quarantine at this time.

Summary of the current guidance from the CDC, as of March 10, 2020:

- If you have returned from any of the Level 3 countries (China, Iran, Italy, and South Korea): You must self-quarantine for 14 days, regardless of how you feel.
- If you are under self-quarantine and become sick: You should seek medical care. Call your doctor's office or the hospital so that they can prepare for your arrival and help prevent exposure to other patients.
- If you are sick: Stay home until you feel better, and contact your doctor if you are concerned you may have been exposed to this illness.
- Masks should only be worn by those who are sick. Per our sick policy, all students who are sick will be sent home until they have recovered.



From what we have learned to date, most people reporting symptoms have been assessed as unlikely to have COVID-19 (symptoms have appeared consistent with other viruses such as influenza or the common cold). The situation is evolving and we encourage anyone with a question about whether they should be tested for COVID-19 to err on the side of safety by seeking medical advice.

We ask that as a community we all do our best to share factual information, and avoid speculation and rumor. The CDC issued guidance aimed at [reducing stigma and bias](#) at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) > Coronavirus (COVID-19) > What You Should Know > Stigma and COVID-19 ([www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/related-stigma.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/related-stigma.html)) in discussions of this illness. During a time of anxiety and fear, it is especially important to offer one another respect, support and compassion.

### **Continued Preparedness Planning**

We are actively working on plans and contingency plans, and encourage members of the community to contribute to these efforts by making your own plans for coping with the potential of disruption to schools and community. We will do our best to support and inform the community -- and we are all going to need to pull together in this spirit.

As we continue to work diligently to prevent the spread of disease to keep students & staff healthy, our methods include:

- **A completed, full building disinfectant over the weekend of March 14 - 15**
- **Daily disinfectant of all bathrooms and hallways**
- Cleaning bathrooms multiple times a day and ensuring they are supplied with soap, water, and paper towels
- Supplying common areas with hand sanitizer, tissues, paper towels, and disinfecting wipes
- Wiping down classroom & cafeteria surfaces, stair handrails, and door handles with disinfectant daily
- Increased signage in all bathrooms to remind students and staff of the importance of handwashing

As we receive updated information, we will continue to send you health updates. We also welcome your questions and concerns - email [info@kipppma.org](mailto:info@kipppma.org) so that we can carefully monitor and respond to these inquiries.

Medical questions and concerns should be brought to a school nurse, your own doctor, or the Massachusetts Department of Public Health at 617.983.6800.

Warmly,  
Caleb Dolan  
Executive Director