



Dr. Meg Mayo-Brown, Superintendent of Schools

March 12, 2020

Dear BPS Community,

The health and well-being of our BPS community is our top priority. We continue to focus on recommended preventative, monitoring, and response measures related to the coronavirus (COVID-19). The amount of information that is available through a variety of sources regarding COVID-19 can be overwhelming at times. Our commitment to our staff, students, and families is that we will implement guidance and recommendations provided by the [Center for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#), the [Massachusetts Department of Public Health \(DPH\)](#), and our district physician, Dr. Katie Rudman. Additionally, we are following recommendations made by Governor Baker and Commissioner of Education, Jeff Riley.

This week Governor Baker issued a state of emergency. At this time, the state of emergency does not impact school districts. However, Governor Baker offered recommendations that we must consider. Specifically, Governor Baker stated, "It is important to start taking more aggressive action now to mitigate spread based on the information we have available." Barnstable Public Schools will implement new response measures as a result of the Governor's recommendations.

Our decision-making process for response measures is informed by a BPS task force comprised of district and school representatives, and guided by our Town's public safety experts. Our task force is meeting regularly, and we will continue to communicate our decisions as they are made. Today's task force meeting focused on defining essential vs. non-essential school functions, and measures to increase social distancing. Effective immediately we are implementing a moratorium on most non-essential school functions, particularly functions that allow public use and access to schools. Below I have identified areas that are impacted by our moratorium.

School-sponsored activities and events. There is a minimum four-week moratorium on all school-based activities and events that allow or require the attendance of outside attendees.

- Regular club and student-group meetings may continue as regularly scheduled; however, the limitations regarding outside attendees and guests apply. *Attendance must be limited to Barnstable Public Schools staff and students.*
- The BHS performances of Once Upon a Mattress and the BIS performance of Annie are postponed at this time. Other events, such as end-of-season sports banquets and dances, will be cancelled.
- Before and After School Care is not affected at this time, and will continue to be provided.

BHS and BIS Athletics. This afternoon we received guidance from the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) regarding the impact of COVID-19 on the upcoming spring sports season. The MIAA Board of Directors has decided to delay the start of the 2020 spring season to March

30, and will revisit their decision prior to March 30. When the spring season begins, we will be implementing a moratorium on all spectators. Spectators will not be permitted to attend any athletic events. If the spring season is allowed to proceed based on MIAA ruling, we will explore options to record and/or broadcast the impacted contests.

Volunteers/Outside Guests and Presenters. There is a minimum four-week moratorium on all volunteers, outside guests, and presenters in BPS schools.

Student Internships. There is a minimum four-week moratorium on all student internships that require students to work in or be present in locations outside of their assigned BPS school. Over the next several days we will work with educators and employers to identify potential options and opportunities for students who are currently enrolled in an internship.

Travel. All district-sponsored non-essential travel is cancelled through May 1. This includes staff participation in out-of-district conferences and conventions. The moratorium for all field trips and international travel will *now* remain in effect through the end of the school year.

Facility Rentals. There is a minimum four-week moratorium on all facility rentals. All rental agreements are canceled through, at least, Sunday, April 13, 2020 and may be extended. This moratorium applies to all groups including school-based parent groups and booster organizations.

It is difficult to announce the above measures as they are contrary to our goal of family and community engagement. However, at this point in time, we feel strongly that the measures are necessary to reduce risk to our students and staff. We will be revisiting all moratoriums as information becomes available. As additional measures may be necessary, please know that we will communicate through our district Blackboard Connect system to parents and guardians. We ask that our families with questions or concerns about our COVID-19 preventative and response measures contact their building principal.

In closing, it is important that I share a note about confidentiality. As with any medical issue, we are required to maintain the confidentiality of our staff, students and families at all times. We will not be providing person-specific information regarding reasons for absences, illness and/or travel history. We will be as transparent as possible within these boundaries and will always prioritize human dignity and respect.

As Governor Baker noted, we all have a part to play in mitigating the risk of COVID-19. We hope that our BPS families will understand that our current measures are intended to protect our BPS community. We thank you for your part in helping to keep our schools safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Dr. Meg Mayo-Brown, Superintendent of Schools