

On Tuesday, I had the opportunity to meet with our town administrators and members of the local boards of health in order to strategize around consistent processes and procedures associated with COVID-19. Although, at the time of this writing, we have no presumptive positive cases in our school district, we are thinking pro-actively about how best to minimize the potential exposure to COVID-19 in our community. The World Health Organization has now classified this as a global pandemic and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health said that the risk of contracting COVID-19 is rising. Governor Baker has issued a state of emergency for Massachusetts and I want to remain vigilant in our activity to deal with this ever changing situation.

With this in mind, and with the support of our Member Town public health officials, all field trips and school events (i.e. concerts, plays and performances, curriculum showcase events, etc.) will be postponed until further notice. Community events that take place in our schools (local youth sports, civic organizations, etc.) will also be postponed until further notice. This does not include before- and after-school childcare programs run by recreation departments. This decision was made with the health and welfare of the entire community in mind and is aligned with the precautionary measures recommended by Governor Baker and health officials to minimize the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

On Friday morning, a conference call with the Massachusetts Department of Education, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, and school superintendents will take place. I will relay any additional guidance that will be offered to our communities as we all attempt to deal with the global health crisis at the local level.

I will continue to monitor and assess this situation very closely and will share information with the community as quickly as possible. For more information please go to <https://www.awrsd.org/district/awrsd-covid-19-information/>. I want to thank you for your understanding and support during this uniquely challenging time.