



**TOWN OF BEDFORD**  
97 MCMAHON ROAD  
BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS 01730

## **Bedford Public Schools Update on COVID-19**

**April 3, 2020**

If you need this document translated, please call your child's school principal - Si necesita este documento traducido, por favor comuníquese con la escuela de su hijo - Se você precisa este documento traduzido, entre em contato com a escola do seu filho - Si vous avez besoin de traduire ce document, s'il vous plaît contacter l'école de votre enfant - 如果你需要这份文件翻译，请联系您的孩子的学校 - إذا كنت تحتاج /تحتاجين إلى ترجمة هذه ، الوثيقة إلى اللغة العربية يرجى الاتصال بمدرسة طفلك/طفلاتك

**Dear Families, Faculty and Staff,**

**In today's update you will find some useful links for technology access guidance for remote/home learning. You will also find a message that we sent to our high school seniors.**

**Stay safe,  
Jon**

The Bedford COVID-19 Task Force met Friday, April 3, 2020 to review the latest guidance from the Department of Public Health (DPH), the office of Governor Charlie Baker, and Town Legal Counsel.

The COVID-19 Task Force is comprised of the following Town officials:

*Sarah Stanton, Town Manager*  
*Jon Sills, Superintendent of Schools*  
*Heidi Porter, Director of Health and Human Services*  
*Robert Bongiorno, Police Chief*  
*David Grunes, Fire Chief*  
*Taissir Alani, Facilities Director*

### Active Cases

As of today, April 3, 2020, there have been twenty-two (22) presumptive positive cases of COVID-19 reported to the Town of Bedford Board of Health. Four (4) of these cases have already recovered and have come off isolation and quarantine, and there are zero known (0) Person(s) Under Investigation. It is likely that there are other individuals impacted by COVID-19 in the community that have not sought medical attention, and/or have not been tested and are isolating at home regardless. Those individuals do not appear on the surveillance reports the Town receives from the MA DPH. Please note, the positive cases above include Hanscom Air Force Base.

The Board of Health continues to do the appropriate follow-up and outreach to those residents and close contacts known to us. Many of the identified close contacts of the initial cases never exhibited symptoms have completed their required quarantine period and have been released from quarantine by the Board of Health.

Anyone exhibiting flu-like symptoms should immediately self-quarantine, isolate from household members and contact their healthcare provider for further guidance on whether testing is warranted.

### Food Bank Update

The Federal government announced today that it no longer needs us to record the names of students who are receiving food support through the food bank. We are happy to share that moving forward, the Town will only need a count in order to partially reimburse us. For anyone participating in the Bedford Food Bank going forward, please expect only to be asked if you have children in the Bedford Public Schools.

### School Update

#### **Technology Guidance**

Families seeking to help their children, particularly in the younger grades, to access the online learning are encouraged to click on the following links for guidance.

[Parent Tech Info](#)

[Chromebook WiFi](#)

[Getting Started in Google Classroom](#)

These links will also be available on the Remote/Online Learning webpage linked to the BPS website at [www.bedfordps.org](http://www.bedfordps.org).

#### **Thinking of Our High School Seniors**

This period is tremendously trying for all of our students, families and faculty and staff. As we launched our remote/online learning this week, we have paid particular attention to the importance of connection, and our teachers, with all of their creativity, collaboration and caring have already done a wonderful job of trying to rekindle a sense of community with their students.

Particularly painful, however, has been the toll that this has taken on our high school seniors, who would at this time be looking forward with excitement to the end of year festivities and accompanying feelings of connection that these traditions generate. While we simply cannot predict at this point when we will be able to engage in large gatherings again, we want our students to know that we are in their corner, and so we followed up on the heartfelt message that Principal Galante sent her seniors last week with the following message:

*“Dear BPS Seniors,*

*I know that Mrs. Galante sent you a heartfelt message last week, but we want to add a few thoughts.*

*We know that most of you have been looking forward to the end of year senior, with its traditional activities and all of the wonderful feelings that they usually generate. I am so sorry that your anticipation of that special time has been clouded by the worry that these events will not take place.*

*What we want to assure you of is that IF large gatherings are deemed to be safe by state and local public health officials, THEN Principal Galante, the School Committee and I pledge to you that there will be a graduation ceremony, even if it has to be in August. More complicated would be a summer prom, because we have no idea what venues will be available, but again, IF safe and possible, we will do our best to facilitate that happening as well.*

*These are unfortunately big "ifs" given present epidemiological modelling, but we want you to know that we are in your corner and will do whatever we need to do if the green light is given for large gatherings.*

*Stay well,*

*Mrs. Galante and Mr. Sills"*

### General Guidance

For previous updates on COVID-19, please review the COVID-19 News and Announcements Page at on the Town website ([www.bedfordma.gov](http://www.bedfordma.gov)).

It is important to remember that while the COVID-19 outbreak is evolving quickly, influenza is currently circulating in the area. Many of the things you do to help prevent colds and the flu can help protect you against other respiratory viruses:

- Wash your hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Clean things that are frequently touched (like doorknobs and countertops) with household cleaning spray or wipes.
- Cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze. Use a tissue or your inner elbow, not your hands.
- Stay home if you are sick and avoid close contact with others.
- Employ social distancing if you are not otherwise required to be in quarantine and must go out.
- For those at home, a little moderate exercise or meditation goes a long way. Get up, stretch, and maybe have a short walk.

The best source of guidance and recommendations is the DPH website: [www.mass.gov/covid19](http://www.mass.gov/covid19)

Alternatively, if you are without internet capabilities, please call the State hotline: 2-1-1

You can also the Town of Bedford website for local updates and actions: [www.bedfordma.gov](http://www.bedfordma.gov)

Town and School officials, and the Bedford Health Department, remain in continuous communication about this issue, and further updates will be provided to the community as we receive them.