



Date: April 1, 2020

From: Steven M. Lamarche, Superintendent, Dudley-Charlton Regional School District

Jonathan Ruda, Town Administrator, Town of Dudley

Andrew M. Golas, Town Administrator, Town of Charlton

Re: COVID-19 Exposure at DCRSD

We are collectively writing to share information that is important for you to know. Late yesterday, the DCRSD Administration learned that a Dudley-Charlton staff member was confirmed to have contracted COVID-19. This positive diagnosis was delivered to this individual on Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup>. Upon learning of the diagnosis, the individual self-reported the diagnosis to the Dudley Board of Health and Charlton Board of Health.

As you know, all Dudley-Charlton Schools have been closed to the public since Wednesday, March 18, 2020 and closed to non-essential employees as of Monday March 23<sup>rd</sup>. This Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup> we invited teachers to enter the schools to retrieve more resources based on the Governor's announcement last week that schools are to remain closed through May 1, 2020. The individual diagnosed with COVID-19 was among those present at Dudley Elementary school, retrieving resources to prepare for the extended closure. Since Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, the DCRSD schools have been closed to teachers and non-essential staff. On Tuesday, upon learning of the March 30, 2020 brief admittance of Dudley Elementary School staff to retrieve resources, the Town of Dudley Board of Health Agent and officials, district school officials and Charlton Board of Health discussed the immediate steps being taken by the school district to address the risks the exposure may have presented. In consultation with officials from both towns, including both local Boards of Health and the school district, and in an abundance of caution, the following steps have been taken:

- Dudley Elementary has been closed to everyone, both staff and the public, and the school district is hiring a third-party to disinfect the entire school.
- Officials from both towns and the regional school district have agreed to close the following schools to everyone until further notice, CES, Heritage, DMS, DES, and Mason Road.
- All schools shuttered will be disinfected by personnel trained with the appropriate-level of mitigation, using the appropriate products and equipment and essential employees will only provide building checks in those schools moving forward.
- Upon total disinfection of the building, the DCRSD Central Office will remain open to essential employees to conduct official school business operations, SHRHS and CMS will remain

distribution points to prepare and distribute food for our grab-n-go program. Both schools continue to be electrostatically sanitized weekly and commonly touched areas are disinfected daily.

- Our essential employees will disinfect SHRHS and CMS after business and food service personnel leave and will conduct building checks.

Further, both town health agents have been in contact with the staff member who has confirmed to have contracted COVID-19 and have referred the matter to the health nurse that serves both towns. Both towns will follow essential protocols of contact tracing and next steps. We continue to stress the need for physical distancing, washing of your hands, and if you do not feel well to reach out to your doctor via telephone and follow their guidance. Please continue to follow the Governor's Stay at Home advisory.

Both towns agree and will continue to take the appropriate steps to notify those with any potential exposure through contact tracing and stand ready provide assistance to those in need. We appreciate the steps taken by the DCRSD Administration to mitigate this situation and will continue to work with them and the Town of Dudley towards keeping our communities safe during this public health threat.

In conclusion, we take community health matters very seriously and will continue to follow established guidance from the CDC and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

Sincerely,

Steven M. Lamarche  
Superintendent  
DCRSD

Jonathan Ruda  
Town Administrator  
Town of Dudley

Andrew M. Golas  
Town Administrator  
Town of Charlton