

From: Podell, David
Sent: Friday, March 6, 2020 1:39 PM
To: mbcc.AllStudents; MBCC.AllEmployees
Subject: Coronavirus Update - March 6, 2020

Dear Members of the MassBay Community,

Two Wellesley public schools, Upham Elementary School and Wellesley Middle School, closed early today because a parent of children who attend those schools tested positive for the COVID-19 virus. The children of the parent have not shown symptoms of the virus. Here is a report on the closings: <https://whdh.com/news/wellesley-schools-close-early-after-parent-of-students-tests-positive-for-coronavirus/>

We continue to monitor the situation as it pertains to our own institution. I encourage you to take the precautions outlined in my earlier emails (I reproduce my March 2 email below). Also, might I suggest that we forego handshaking. It's a nice custom, but it's not strictly speaking necessary. We can certainly find other ways to greet each other.

Best,
David Podell
President



Dear Members of the MassBay Community:

I write to you as a follow-up to my earlier email of January 30, 2020. MassBay continues to actively monitor the news about the coronavirus (COVID-19), which the [Massachusetts Department of Public Health considers a "low risk" to residents in Massachusetts](#) at present.

There have been no reported cases of COVID-19 among our students, faculty, or staff. College officials are in close contact with state and federal health officials and we will bring you any new information. As of March 2, 2020, Massachusetts has only one confirmed case of COVID-19.

However, we will remain vigilant about taking care of ourselves and our surroundings. As I stated in my previous email, the following are basic steps everyone should take to prevent the spread of all respiratory viruses and create a healthier campus community:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue and then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently-touched objects and surfaces.

To manage this situation and keep us all informed, I have assembled a team faculty and staff and charged them to stay on top of information from all official sources in order to minimize the impact of this global challenge on our community.

The committee will also make recommendations about any steps we as a community should take in the future in response to the situation.

In addition to the still-relevant prevention steps above, the team wanted to share current information from the [Center for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#) and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health:

- [CDC Share Facts, Not Fear](#)
- [MA Dept. of Public Health Fact Sheet](#)
- [CDC What to do if you are sick with coronavirus](#)

We will continue to monitor the situation closely and provide timely updates and guidance as this situation evolves. As this is a fluid matter, we want to assure you that we are preparing for an array of circumstances, as we recognize this could have a significant impact on our community. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Student Development at 781.239.3142.