March 13, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Norwell Public Schools will be closed from Monday, March 16 through Friday, March 27. Over the next two weeks, we will reassess to determine if a longer closure is warranted. This decision was made earlier today in consultation with, and in line with, other South Shore districts.

We will be notifying faculty and students at the end of school to bring home their learning materials and personal belongings.

This morning we participated in a conference call with the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH). On that call, we learned that the state continues to direct us to follow Department of Public Health Guidelines and did not recommend statewide school closure at this time. The decision to close schools has been directed back to the districts. Although we still do not have any presumed cases of this illness in our area, our top priority is the health and safety of Norwell students and staff.

The decision to close schools is not an easy one. We are faced with a lack of information and need to make a decision. We are aware of the difficulty that many families will have trying to balance child care with their professional and personal responsibilities. In short, we know that closing schools is a major disruption in the community.

We will be providing more information on Monday to update you on the type of services we will be able to provide during this period of closure. As we have shared, we have entered uncharted territory as we contend with the COVID-19 disease. The response to this situation will continue to evolve.
As always, we are committed to sharing new information as it becomes available. Please look out for further communication in the coming week. Thank you all for your patience during these very trying times. Please take this time to focus on family, health, and well-being.

Sincerely,

Matthew A. Keegan
Superintendent of Schools