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March 9, 2020

Dear Sharon School Community,

This letter is a follow-up to the communication that was sent on Saturday, March 7, 2020.

This morning, the Sharon Public Health Department and Emergency Management officials informed me that they were notified by the Massachusetts Department of Health yesterday that a Sharon resident has been tested for COVID-19, and at this time the results are presumptive positive. This individual and their family are currently self-quarantined.

It has come to my attention that multiple members of the family either work for or attend the Sharon Public Schools. Last Thursday, March 5, the individual who tested with a presumptive positive result attended the eleventh-grade move-up ceremony hosted at Sharon High. Persons who attended the move-up ceremony and were in the immediate area or had direct contact with this individual have already been notified.

Over the past several weeks, the school department began implementing precautionary sanitizing and disinfecting measures in all schools. During the February vacation week, the contracted cleaning service for Sharon Middle and Sharon High school and the elementary custodial staff disinfected all restrooms, chairs, desks, handrails, doors, doorknobs, entryways, and floors (cleaned, disinfected, scrubbed, and buffed). **Over the past weekend, custodial teams worked overtime shifts to implement additional disinfecting protocol at all schools.**

In addition, as an additional precaution, and in keeping with recommendations from the medical community to minimize public gatherings, I have decided to modify the State of the Schools address that was scheduled for this evening. In lieu of a public event, Sharon Community Television will air the speech live on the air, tomorrow at 9am, on channel 22. Sharon Community Television will air encore presentations in the days that follow on channel 8.

It is important to emphasize that the risk for exposure to this virus remains extremely low. As with the common cold and seasonal flu, the likelihood of contracting the virus is significantly reduced by taking simple precautions, such as washing hands frequently with soap, avoiding close physical contact with others, and wiping surfaces with disinfectants. Each of us should be vigilant about these measures and monitor ourselves closely for any flu-like symptoms. Of course, any adult or student who exhibits symptoms should stay home from school and seek medical attention.

We will continue to monitor this situation very closely. As a precautionary measure, we have begun planning and will continue to plan for the potential of any long-term school closures that will result in the need for alternative learning plans for students. We will continue to take direction from the Massachusetts Department of Health and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to assess the need for school closures.

Sharon Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, disability, gender identity, homelessness, national origin, religion, sex or sexual orientation.

We understand that the community is extremely concerned about the health and safety of everyone during this time. We ask that you rely on official notices and information from the Centers of Disease Control, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, and the Sharon Health Department. School and district officials will share any additional information as soon as it becomes available, including updates on Sharon.k12.ma.us. I will continue to work collaboratively with the Sharon Public Health Department and other health officials to address the concerns of the school community.

Sincerely,

[Dr. Victoria L. Greer](#)

Victoria L. Greer, PhD
Superintendent of Schools