



455 County Street – New Bedford, MA 02740
Superintendent Thomas Anderson

DRAFT

New Bedford Public Schools emergency health monitoring and deep cleaning protocol in full operation

New Bedford Public Schools continue to operate under emergency preparedness guidelines as outlined by the City of New Bedford Board of Health in communication with the state and federal health agencies, including the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and in consultation with the office of Mayor Jon Mitchell and the School Committee.

All school nurses are on heightened alert to monitor students for any sign of illness, including body temperature checks, examination and removal from classroom if symptoms of illness dictate until immediate parent pickup is arranged. Teachers are instructed to report to the school nurse any students with signs of illness immediately.

Possible closure of New Bedford Public Schools continues to be a frequently asked question. To date, NBPS remain in session, with status for operation determined on a daily basis. Superintendent Thomas Anderson stated “we are receiving hourly updates on the situation and urge parents and caregivers to closely monitor local news and the district’s COVID-19 information page: www.newbedfordschools.org/coronavirus. When there is new information to share, we will use all means to ensure that staffs, students, families and the community are informed as soon as possible. We’ll be texting, emailing, and calling parents directly as well as contacting all local media and social media as new information becomes available.”

Wanda Nunes, MSN, BSN, RN, Supervisor of School Nurses added “we urge parents and caregivers to keep students home if they are feeling sick. NBPS Health Services are on high alert status and we urge parents to be for ready to respond immediately to any requests for pickup should the school nurse call. Also, be prepared at home in the event this is necessary.”

Al Oliveira, MCPPO, NBPS Director of Facilities Operations noted, “All facilities teams throughout our schools and buildings are following a comprehensive deep cleaning protocol focused on performing a targeted environmental cleaning regimen, which is documented by checklist and signed by custodians doing the work. All schools will cleaned 100% and cleaning will continue on weekends through overtime schedules.”

The NBPS deep cleaning protocol includes the use of Electrostatic Handheld Sprayers to disinfect large areas. Special attention is being paid to all common surfaces including Cafeteria Tables/Chairs, Chairs, coat hooks, copy machines, desks, door hardware, door surfaces (interior/exterior), computers (keyboard/mouse/peripherals), light switches, lockers, serving stations, sinks/faucets, stair railings, telephones, and water fountains.

Sanitizing agents in use include hydrogen peroxide (via electrostatic charge) and cleaning solutions with active disinfecting and virucide ingredients including with 62% to 71% ethanol, Octyl decyl dimethyl ammonium chloride, tetrasodium ethylenediamine tetraacetate, diethylene glycol butyl ether, sodium hypochlorite (bleach) and Oxivir (Accelerated Hydrogen Peroxide). Also in use: professional detergents formulated to disinfect hard, non-porous surfaces such as floors, walls, metal surfaces, stainless steel surfaces, porcelain, glazed ceramic tile, plastic surfaces, restrooms, shower stalls, sinks and cabinets.

All restrooms and classroom sinks are being monitored for replenishment of soaps, hand sanitizer, soaps and paper towels.

For information updates, please monitor these websites:

www.newbedfordschools.org/coronavirus

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/sfs/emergencyplan/covid19.html>

<https://www.mass.gov/resource/information-on-the-outbreak-of-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>