



Ipswich Public Schools

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Good Evening,

I am writing to update the Ipswich Public Schools community on the latest developments in our efforts to comply with state and local recommendations regarding the prevention of the spread of the coronavirus. Last night, the CDC added Italy to the warning list of countries from which travelers should self-quarantine for 14 days upon re-entry to the US. As a result, the schools have encouraged any student or staff who themselves have traveled to Italy to self-quarantine until they have been symptom-free for 14 days from the time they arrived back in the United States. Information about the precautions for travelers who have returned from Italy can be found [here](#). The CDC does not expect or recommend that schools screen staff or students for COVID-19; however, we will continue to monitor our attendance data and student visits to the nurses' offices.

As a district we continue to advocate frequent hand-washing, use of alcohol-based hand sanitizer, and coughing/sneezing into sleeves to prevent the spread of all respiratory viruses, not just COVID-19. The schools will be sanitized again over the next week and our custodial staff continue to use standard disinfecting practices on a daily basis.

While the threat of infection with COVID-19 is minimal at this time, the risk of [social stigma](#) for any students and staff who self-quarantine is high. As educators and employers, we are obligated to uphold the principle of confidentiality regarding the health information of our students and employees. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding as we protect the privacy of anyone who has decided to self-quarantine due to travel to any of the countries on the CDC's warning list.

As we continue to comply with the recommendations of local and state health organizations, we will maintain the goal of making everyone aware of the latest COVID-19 developments without stoking unnecessary fear.

Please direct any questions to my office.

Brian J. Blake
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