



Franklin Public Schools

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Superintendent's Report to School Committee September 10, 2019 School Committee Meeting

Transportation Update

The first few weeks of school are always tricky ones when it comes to our bus transportation. We hear about crowded buses and early/delayed routes. Most matters resolve themselves as the first few weeks progress and we thank our families for their patience. Bus drivers and families adjust to the routes and stops resulting in routes that are more aligned with published schedules. We anticipate additional relief on our routes when students' after school clubs and activities begin at the middle schools on September 23 and more students begin to ride the late bus in the afternoon. Late buses at FHS started this week. Our transportation department addresses concerns, for example, visiting bus stops upon request and making adjustments when appropriate. Our administrators are checking bus passes and drivers will continue to do so going forward.

We want to thank everyone for their cooperation and patience.

EEE Risk and Franklin Public Schools Grounds/Events

The following information is going out to families in an e-mail, but I wish to also share it here tonight.

At the current time, the Town of Franklin has been designated as having a "Moderate" level of risk from the State of Massachusetts Department of Public Health. The following notice, which has been posted on the town and school websites, provides additional information:

<https://www.franklinma.gov/home/urgent-alerts/town-franklin-eee-update>

To date, there have not been any positive results of mosquitos, animals, or humans that have tested positive in Franklin.

Our response at this time has been consistent with the state response plan for communities deemed "Moderate". Recommendations for this risk level include:

1.) **Wear mosquito repellent.** Products with 30% DEET, Permethrin, Picardin or oil of lemon eucalyptus are the most effective; 2.) **Be aware of peak mosquito hours.** Mosquitos are most

active from dusk to dawn; 3.) **Drain standing water on your property.** Mosquitos lay eggs in standing or stagnant water; 4.) **Wear long sleeves and long pants.** Covering skin will limit potential exposure; 5.) **Avoid outside areas with obvious mosquito activity.**

Given that the threat level is “moderate”, evening school-based athletic events are still occurring as scheduled within Franklin; student-athletes have been encouraged to wear long sleeves and to utilize mosquito repellent. School-based evening athletic events occurring in towns that are “high” or “critical” risk have been rescheduled to daytime hours. Should our risk status be elevated to “high” or “critical” or we be advised differently by a public health agency, we will reschedule evening school-sponsored athletic events for Franklin High School.

According to state guidance, the risk of EEE is greatly diminished during daytime hours. Therefore, our physical education classes and outdoor recess have been occurring as usual.

Families should consider sending their children to school (particularly the early morning/dawn bus stops) in long sleeves and long pants and protected by mosquito repellent, due to the peak mosquito hours described above.

Additionally, we wish to point out that a public health alert was issued for Norfolk County (including the Town of Franklin) indicating that there will be aerial spraying tonight from 7:15 PM - 4:30 AM. Typically, this type of notification requires an advance of two days, however an emergency waiver was obtained at the state level. Their notification and additional information about the product being applied can be found at the following website:

<https://www.mass.gov/guides/eee-in-massachusetts#-september-2019-aerial-spraying-information->

More information can be found on the Town Blog:

<https://www.franklinma.gov/home/news/09102019-public-health-alert>

All of our high school athletic activities tonight will have ended by that time.

We remain informed of the situation and the threat level in Franklin and will be considering further spraying, if needed, after the aerial application mentioned previously.

We will keep you informed of any further updates specific to the schools.

