

September 10, 2020

Dear Families and Staff,

Thank you for your patience as we awaited a response from the Melrose Department of Public Health regarding the confirmed case of COVID-19 in our Toddler 3 room at our school in Melrose.

**The Melrose Department of Public Health (DPH) has instructed us that our Toddler 3 room will need to remain closed for 14 days, reopening on Monday, September 21. Given the unique circumstance of the same room being impacted within a month, we are closing the entire school tomorrow, Friday, September 11, to undergo a deep clean and to offer more time for staff and families to consult with their health care providers.**

***Information & Confidentiality***

The information that we can share is that an individual from the Toddler 3 room has tested positive for COVID-19. **This individual was last at school on Friday, September 4, and the Melrose Department of Public Health has instructed us that our Toddler 3 room will need to remain closed for 14 days, reopening on Monday, September 21.** We recognize that protecting confidentiality can create an atmosphere of ambiguity and we share your concerns for everyone.

***Next Steps for Little Sprouts***

We take COVID-19 very seriously and fully appreciate any concerns you may be experiencing. In addition to closing for a deep clean tomorrow, Friday, September 11, we have also created and distributed a COVID testing resource guide for our staff. The one-page guide offers useful information on how and where to schedule a COVID test in and around the Melrose area. A copy of this resource is included with this letter.

***Next Steps for Your Family***

We urge you to contact your regular health care provider to inquire about next steps for you and your loved ones. In addition to the information provided on our COVID testing resource guide, you can also access all of Massachusetts's most updated information regarding COVID-19 testing easily online at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/about-covid-19-testing>.

For those members of our school community who choose to undergo COVID testing, **we ask that you please share any findings of confirmed cases with us.** While we will continue to uphold confidentiality, we are also working hard to collaborate with local health officials and remain dependable public health partners, especially during this pandemic.

We also want to let you know that as of today, the individual with the confirmed case of COVID remains in good spirits and recovering safely at home. Even in times of crisis, we are grateful to be a part of such a loving and caring community, made up of individuals who truly embody what it means to remain "in this together."

Sincerely,

*Melissa*

Melissa Leger, President, Little Sprouts