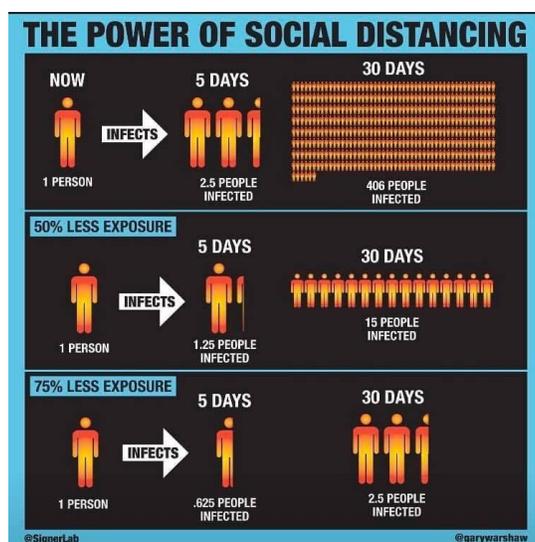


Dear Families,

We hope that this email is finding you well during this challenging time and that you've been able to take this first week to settle into a new family routine. We trust that you've found ways to reconnect as a family and still manage all the things you need to do personally and professionally. Please take this time with your family to create a daily routine with your child(ren), go for a walk or play outside, read books, and play games. We are writing to update you on several items that will help with the time at home with your families.

### **Our Collective Responsibility - COVID-19:**

We would like to remind all families that we urge you to follow the guidance and direction from Governor Baker, including practicing social distancing and preventative care. More details on the COVID-19 outbreak can be found at [mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov).



### **Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and WGBH:**

The Massachusetts DESE has announced a partnership with WGBH to provide televised learning for the students of Massachusetts. The following is a Twitter post from DESE:

“As schools close, [@WGBH](#), [@WGBH\\_edu](#), [@WGBY](#), [@massgovernor](#) & [@MASchoolsK12](#), will supplement district efforts through distance learning via TV & digital platforms. Our aim is to reach as many students & caregivers as possible. Watch this space for details.”

Information can be found at <https://www.wgbh.org/distance-learning-center>. We will keep you updated about the broadcasts as further information is released.

### **Learning Resources:**

Teachers and administrators have been hard at work creating and posting optional learning experiences for Danvers' students. Next week, we will have new learning resources available to students. Please remind your students that they are highly encouraged to complete the assignments.

- **Elementary Students:** Your teachers, principal and district elementary curriculum team will send weekly *Optional Learning Opportunities* out to you each Monday with the first one

starting March 23rd. Please use this weekly resource as a suggestion of activities to complete at home. These activities are fun, easy to implement and not always technology dependent.

- **Secondary Students:** Please check *Google Classroom* each day to look for new assignments from your teachers. Teachers will post new assignments 3 to 4 times per week. We will also continue to post other learning resources that may be of interest to your child(ren) but not directly applicable to the courses they are currently enrolled in.

For example, [Hour of Code](#) is a great site for students to explore coding in a fun, educational, and interactive way.

Another idea for students is to learn more about becoming a powerful math learner.

Youtube.org offers a great online course for students - [How To Learn Math for Students](#).

Here's a description from their website: *“This class will give learners of math the information they need to become powerful math learners, it will correct any misconceptions they have about what math is, and it will teach them about their own potential to succeed and the strategies needed to approach math effectively. There are 6 sessions, the first three are approximately 10 minutes long and the last three approximately 20 minutes long.* ([Link for Spanish Version](#))

- **All Students:** Please check the district's [Optional Learning Resources](#) page on Monday, March 23rd, for new learning during the week of March 23-27th. The list of resources will also have suggestions for movement and mindfulness - things we all need at this difficult time.
- **Helping to establish a routine or structure into your family's day:** We are all looking for ways to get into a routine now that most people are working from home and managing children. One way is to establish a routine for the family that works for all members. Here are some planning ideas (you should make choices based on what works best for your family):
  - Look for sample schedules online (try searching- “family schedules” or “daily routines”)
  - Make the routine/schedule for weekdays and keep weekends relaxed
  - Start with important parts of the day including meals, snack, chores, responsibilities, wake up and bed times, etc.
  - Think about putting in place other needed “chunks” of the day around the above parts of the day: Things like learning time, indoor playtime, outdoor playtime, electronically connecting with friends, screen time vs screen-free time, etc.
  - Make sure that you keep formal learning time manageable for your child. You do not need undue stress at this time. You also do not need to replicate a full school schedule at home.
  - Be sure to consult your child(ren) as you put together the routine/schedule – if they help create it, it is more likely they will follow it!
  - Remember that this time with family to play board games, cards, or do a puzzle with your family. Lessons learned playing games and working on a puzzle are very valuable in learning problem solving and/or critical thinking skills.
  - Here's some advice from [PBS](#).

**Danvers Lunch Deliveries:** We continue to deliver lunches to the residents of Danvers. If you or someone you know would like to order lunch, please click on this [link](#) to complete the order form. Please feel free to email [lunch@danvers.org](mailto:lunch@danvers.org) with any questions you may have about ordering.

**Internet Essentials Free to New Customers:** As announced, it's even easier for low-income families who live in a Comcast service area to sign-up for Internet Essentials, the nation's largest and most comprehensive broadband adoption program. New customers will receive 60 days of complimentary Internet Essentials service, which is normally available to all qualified low-income households for \$9.95/month. Additionally, for all new and existing Internet Essentials customers, the speed of the program's Internet service was increased to 25 Mbps downstream and 3 Mbps upstream. That increase will go into effect for no additional fee and it will become the new base speed for the program going forward.

**Xfinity Hotspots:** "...all Xfinity WiFi Public Hotspots are now open to everyone on the "xfinitywifi" SSID. Public hotspots can be found in small/medium businesses and outdoors in commercial areas. Non-Xfinity subscribers need to accept Terms and Conditions to access the network and repeat when requested to continue to receive free unlimited access. Please refer to the [map below](#) for available public hotspots."

Take good care,

Lisa Dana, Keith Taverna and Mary Wermers