



ABINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

"The mission of the Abington Public Schools is to provide all students with relevant, challenging educational experiences to prepare them to be engaged, responsible citizens and members of the global community."

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March 11, 2020

Dear Students and Families Participating in the Planned Philadelphia Trip,

As a result of Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker, Health Secretary Marylou Sudders and the Abington Health Agent Marty Golightly's recommendation to avoid all nonessential travel, I regret to inform you that the trip to Philadelphia has been cancelled.

Although you may personally feel the risk to yourselves is small, health officials and authorities have clearly made this recommendation to protect not only you but also the general population from the spread of COVID 19 or Coronavirus as best as possible.

Mr. MacCurtain has been in touch with the travel company, Direct Travel. A non-refundable payment will be due in the next few days. If the trip is not cancelled now, that money of yours will not be lost.

Direct Travel has agreed to refund all payments with the exception of a \$150.00 per student cancellation fee. The company has agreed to provide a travel voucher of \$150.00 that can be used for school trips with Direct Travel and will be good through the end of the 2020-2021 school year. Each voucher will be transferrable to siblings.

I am aware that Mr. MacCurtain is continuing to advocate on behalf of all with Direct Travel. Should he be able to find some relief from the company, he will be reaching out to you. Please feel free to email or call Mr. MacCurtain with any questions.

It is a difficult decision to cancel these trips as I know the amount of planning and excitement that comes with travel as a group. Please know it is being made to keep as many people as safe as possible and based on the best recommendations available.

Sincerely,

Peter Schafer
Superintendent of Schools