



*Ralph C. Mahar Regional School  
Orange Elementary  
Petersham Center School*

*Consolidated Central Offices  
507 South Main Street  
P.O. Box 680  
Orange, MA 01364*

*Dr. Elizabeth Zielinski, Superintendent of Schools  
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November 18, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are all still grappling with the impact of COVID-19 in our daily lives. I want to express my sincere thanks for all that you have done, and continue to do to help keep your children, our students safe, and support our remarkable staff's efforts to educate your children in these difficult times.

Various school breaks and holidays are fast approaching. Your family may be preparing to take trips, visit families and/or friends, and/or have contact outside of your daily groups of people. The CDC continues to state that travel increases the risk of getting and spreading COVID-19.

Although seeing loved ones and enjoying a holiday or trip are wonderful experiences, please also understand and follow the safety measures Governor Backer has instituted for Massachusetts citizens. If you leave the state, you will be required to quarantine upon your return for 14 days OR have a negative COVID test result within 72 hours of your return to the state. This requirement is for travel to ALL states with the exception of a few such as New Hampshire, Maine, and Vermont. The travel restrictions change based on the positivity rate of COVID-19 in each state, please check the states website to ensure you know the particular requirements for your travel destination and complete all required travel forms. <https://www.mass.gov/forms/massachusetts-travel-form>

- If you do travel, please do the following actions to help minimize the risk of infection among our students:
  - Contact the school nurse to let them know you are traveling to a state that is non-exempt from the quarantine and testing requirements prior to your travel date. Those states are currently New Hampshire, Maine, New York and Vermont.
  - Test all family members who traveled out of state within the 72 hours upon their return to Massachusetts. Students and staff will be able to return to school with a negative test result and will not have to complete the 14-day quarantine. The test results will need to be submitted to the school nurse before the students or staff may return to school.
  - Please let the school nurse know of any positive test results.
  - Stay home if you are sick.

- While traveling (and upon return to school) please continue to:
  - Wear your mask
  - Maintain physical distancing (3 feet or more)
  - Wash your hands often
  - Use online or contactless reservations and check-ins
  - Enhance healthy hygiene practices

The CDC has more information on travel here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-during-covid19.html>

Please enjoy your upcoming holidays, but be safe!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Liz', written over the printed name 'Dr. Liz'.

Dr. Liz