



Massachusetts
Historical Society
Founded 1791

March 6, 2020

Dear Students, Families, and Teachers,

As state coordinators for National History Day in Massachusetts, we have been monitoring news of the spread of COVID-19 within Massachusetts, and have been in contact with school administration officials as we approach the regional contests this weekend. Due to confirmed or presumptive cases in at least two of our regional districts, **we have made the decision to cancel the regional contests in all four districts on March 7 and 8.**

The state contest slated for April 4 will be rescheduled. Instead, we plan to hold a state contest in either late April or early May (date to be announced shortly) which will be open to all students who had registered to compete at the regional level. We will also be collecting student projects electronically so that we can hold a virtual state contest if the need arises (details to be announced).

We do not make this decision lightly, as we know that countless hours of work are involved for students, teachers, and families in preparation for the regional contests. However, student well-being is our first priority, and we are also committed to ensuring that all students have equal opportunities to compete and showcase their hard work. To that end, we will make feedback sessions available to students at the regional level as we approach the date of the state contest in order to provide them with additional guidance on their projects.

Thank you for your patience as we do our best to navigate this very fluid, quickly changing situation. We will issue details soon about what the state contest will look like this spring.

Sincerely,

Elyssa Tardif and Kate Melchior
State Coordinators for National History Day in Massachusetts