

February 7, 2020

Dear Families:

The novel coronavirus (also known as 2019-nCoV) has been in the news regularly over the past several weeks. As a follow-up to the information from the Farmington Valley Health District (FVHD) included in last week's Friday Folder, I wanted to share some additional information about coronavirus.

Coronavirus, which was first identified in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China, causes respiratory illness in people and can be spread from person to person. Symptoms include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Since its initial outbreak, thousands of cases have been reported in China with additional cases confirmed in other countries, including the U.S. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), no confirmed cases of coronavirus have been reported in Connecticut (although cases have been confirmed in Massachusetts).

I want to assure you we continue to monitor this situation very closely. Our school nurses track daily illness trends for both students and staff. In addition, the district's Director of Health Services is in regular contact with the FVHD and health officials for the State of Connecticut. We also regularly monitor guidance and updates from the CDC and the World Health Organization regarding recommended precautions.

Since we are experiencing flu season, our custodial staff has been providing extra cleaning of frequently touched surfaces in our school. Teachers reinforce the following with students and we ask that you discuss these precautionary steps with your child(ren) as well:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds frequently throughout the day. If soap and water are unavailable, use hand sanitizer.
- Limit the amount of time you spend with those who are sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when sneezing or coughing.
- Stay home if you are feeling sick.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces

You can find more information about coronavirus by clicking on these links:

- [US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [Farmington Valley Health District](#)

As always, if you have any health-related questions or concerns, please contact our school nurse, \_\_\_\_\_, at (860) \_\_\_\_\_.

Thank you for your continued support in keeping our students and staff healthy and safe.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Principal