

[School Letterhead]

February 27, 2020

Dear _____ Families:

A few weeks ago I sent you a letter about the coronavirus (now officially known as COVID-19). I wanted to take this opportunity to share with you the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's most recent information sheet about COVID-19, which follows this letter.

COVID-19 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. As of February 26, 2020, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is reporting 14 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the U.S., along with another 45 confirmed cases involving individuals who have been returned to the U.S. from overseas by the U.S. Department of State.

As I mentioned in my previous letter, the district continues to monitor this situation very closely. Our school nurses track daily illness trends for both students and staff. The district's Director of Health Services is in regular contact with the Farmington Valley Health District and state health officials, and we regularly monitor guidance and updates from the CDC.

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

In addition, if your child has a compromised immune system or other medical condition that would classify him or her as "high risk" for infection or flu-related complications, you should consult with your physician to determine if any additional precautionary measures need to be taken.

You can find more information about COVID-19 by clicking on these links:

- [US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [Connecticut Department of Public Health](#)
- [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