

Frontier Regional and Union #38 School Districts

Conway • Deerfield • Sunderland • Whately



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Dear Families,

We understand that families may have questions regarding the recent outbreak of the Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) and how it may impact our schools. While this is a public health concern, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) continues to report that the immediate risk to the general public remains low at this time. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) continues to share guidance for school administrators and school health personnel. As of this writing, Massachusetts has one confirmed case of COVID-19 and the risk to our residents remains low. In the U.S., there are 56 confirmed cases (42 of these cases were from the Diamond Princess Cruise ship).

As with seasonal flu and strep infections, there are general precautions we can all take to remain as healthy as possible.

Practice good hand hygiene. Wash your hands often and thoroughly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands. Use Alcohol-based hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available.

When coughing and sneezing, cover your mouth and nose with a tissue. You can also cough or sneeze into your sleeve. Throw used tissues in the trash and immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

Avoid sharing drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, dishes, towels, or other items. Wash these items thoroughly with soap and water after use.

Avoid close contact with people who are sick whenever possible. Keep sick children at home.

Practice other good health habits. Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at home, work, or school, especially when someone is ill. Get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids, and eat nutritious food.

The Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) is an evolving situation that we are following closely and we will continue to update you as information is shared with us. Please rest assured that we are monitoring student health concerns. We are in close communication with the local Board of

Health and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health/School Health Unit, as well as pediatric health care providers as needed in the community. Our School Facilities Department is vigilantly sanitizing our educational spaces as we typically do during cold and flu season. We are following all recommended guidelines to ensure the safety of our students and staff.

For more information

DPH has created a website updated constantly with the latest guidance, including printable fact sheets in multiple languages. Visit: www.mass.gov/2019coronavirus or visit the CDC website at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.

Sincerely,



Darius Modestow, Superintendent



Margaret Burch, MS, RN NCSN, Nurse Leader