



March 2, 2020

Dear BOWA Families:

This letter is to assure all parents of cooperation and collaboration of the BOWA School Districts in understanding and monitoring the status of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). Each of the four districts have been in close contact with their respective school medical advisors as well as with our local health districts (Quinnipiac Valley Health District (QVHD) and the Orange Health Department) to stay abreast of information in regards to the COVID-19. Schools and local health districts are working with the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH). The information from the DPH assists us in making preparations and responses.

We continue to be diligent in following school cleaning protocols and illness prevention techniques established prior to the cold and flu season. In addition, our school nursing staff continues to monitor attendance, student and staff health, and to be available for individual parent questions.

The best step that **everyone** can take to reduce the likelihood that they will contract any virus is to engage in regular handwashing. The CDC is a great resource to use when teaching your child the most effective technique for hand washing: <https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/pdf/hand-sanitizer-factsheet.pdf>.

Staff in all our schools will be encouraging students to engage in regular handwashing.

Currently, the State Department of Education is working on guidance specific to continuity of education in the event state and federal officials require public school closures and will communicate with districts when that information is available.

Parents can also help to encourage children and teens to wash hands frequently. Additionally, please follow the school expectations for keeping your children home when they are ill. Students should also not attend school if they are vomiting or have flu-like symptoms such as fever, chills, body aches, sore throat and/or cough. Students should not return to school until they are fever free for 24 hours **without** the use of Tylenol/Motrin.

Amity will monitor school-sponsored student travel, as there are several national and international trips scheduled in April. No formal decision has been made at this time regarding these trips; we will follow recommendations from the CDC and State Department regarding travel.

For more information about COVID-19, visit:

- CT Department of Public Health: <https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Public-Health-Preparedness/Main-Page/2019-Novel-Coronavirus>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

For information on talking to children about the Coronavirus, please see: [https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/natural-disaster-resources/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-\(coronavirus\)-a-parent-resource](https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/natural-disaster-resources/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-(coronavirus)-a-parent-resource)

Bethany

Orange

Woodbridge

Amity