



February 27, 2020

Dear Avon Families and Friends:

As the concerns of the Coronavirus, or what has now been officially named COVID-19, continue to dominate the news and our conversations, I wanted to assure you that the Avon Public School district is closely monitoring the situation. To keep informed of any new developments and latest health recommendations, we have been in regular communication with the Farmington Valley Health District and the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH).

Please remember that Connecticut does not have any confirmed cases of the Coronavirus. For the general American public, the risk is believed to be low at this time. However, the Connecticut Department of Public Health has stated that flu activity is currently affecting large areas within Connecticut. Both COVID-19 and the flu are infectious respiratory illnesses and cause fever, cough, body aches and fatigue, and can result in pneumonia. Both can be spread from person to person by sneezing, coughing or talking. The best recommendation is to follow everyday actions to prevent spread of respiratory illnesses:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water, for at least 20 seconds, before eating and especially after going to the restroom, sneezing, coughing or blowing your nose.
- If you are unable to wash your hands, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or disinfectant wipes.

If you would like additional information on the corona and influenza viruses, below are links you may find helpful:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/index.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/2019-ncov-factsheet.pdf>

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/>

We realize that there is concern about travel overseas due to COVID-19. Staff will work with families and travel companies regarding field trips already planned should there be a need to further restrict overseas travel. We will continue to monitor the guidance and directives from both the state and federal government regarding travel, and notify any families these possible changes may affect.

As we continue to take necessary precautions to safeguard the health of our students and staff, please know that should the unlikely event of high absenteeism occur, the Avon Public Schools has a contingency plan to maintain the continuity of teaching and learning.

Sincerely,

*Bridget H. Carnemolla*

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Superintendent of Schools

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