

March 13, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians and Staff members,

We continue to monitor the state's and the nation's efforts to prevent the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19). As Superintendent of Schools, I am charged in weighing the risks associated with the spread of the virus and maintaining the operations of our schools. I must gauge the facts of the situation which are garnered through our daily contact with state agencies from a potential climate of fear. As of the date of this communication, we are not aware of any confirmed cases of the virus in either of our districts; however, as the number of cases increase across the nation and in the Northeast, our districts will remain pro-active in prevention.

To that end and effective today, **all school activities that include gatherings of the general public, (i.e. concerts, plays, open houses, etc.) are cancelled until further notice.** It is our hope the situation will pass quickly, and we will be able to reschedule activities as we are able. *School contained activities that do not include invitations to the public are not affected at this time.* Questions about a specific event may be directed to building principals.

We ask parents, students and staff members to remain vigilant in self-monitoring and self-care and to regard the cautions of our state experts. The NH Bureau of Infectious Disease Control is manning phones 24/7 to answer questions and provide support. Their daytime phone number is 603-271-4496 (603-271-5300 after 4pm).

Should an individual believe he or she has been exposed to the virus, the following protocol should be followed:

- Stay home and avoid public places when sick (i.e. social distancing)
- Avoid being within 6 feet (close contact) of a person who is sick
- Avoid sharing drinks, or other utensils or objects that may transmit saliva
- Contact healthcare provider immediately if symptomatic of coughing, fever, difficulty breathing.


(See <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/documents/2019-coronavirus-self-observation-guidelines.pdf>)

Important and up-to-date information about the virus can be found at the websites listed below:

- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/prevention-treatment.html> and
- <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/2019-ncov.htm>.

I want to thank our parents, staff, students and community members for their ongoing efforts to minimize the exposure and spread of the virus. These are unprecedented times which we are encountering; the degree to which we succeed depends on the collective efforts of our school communities and our mutual support of one another.

Sincerely,



Dr. Earl Metzler,
Superintendent of Schools