

STONINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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March 11, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians, Staff and Students:

Stonington Public Schools is taking the necessary precautions to protect the school community from the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). District administration has been receiving regular updates from the State Department of Education, CT Department of Public Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CT Association of School Superintendents (CAPSS) and through local collaborations with leaders from Ledge Light Health District.

Special care and attention are being paid to the cleaning, sanitizing, disinfecting with use of electrostatic foggers at all school and district facilities. Custodial staff will continue to clean surfaces that are frequently touched such as doorknobs, light switches, countertops, keyboards, desks and handrails. Shared supplies such as baskets of markers and physical education equipment are also being cleaned regularly. Additional hand soap and sanitizer are available to staff and students. The District will utilize CDC-recommended cleaning products that are labeled as hospital grade disinfectants. Information on these products can be found in their Technical Data and Safety Data Sheets which are available upon request. Furthermore, our bus company, First Student, has also increased their cleaning methodologies.

At this time, school closures in Connecticut have not been directed by Federal or State officials. The decision to close schools will be made by school district administration in coordination with and/or at the direction of local health officials. The following protocols are hereby implemented for Stonington Public Schools:

Effective Immediately:

- At this time, all school and district offices will remain open, in regular session, for students and staff.
- All enrichment activities/events (evening school concerts, plays, family engagement events, etc.) that are planned for groups of more than 100 people are cancelled beginning today, March 11th through April 20th.
- All field trips and travel are cancelled between March 11th and April 20th.
- All winter sports championship tournaments are cancelled. This announcement was made by the CIAC today.
- These restrictions will be reviewed prior to April 20th for possible extension.

If there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 within our school district:

- Should there be a need to close our schools (due to a confirmed case of COVID-19), all district schools will be closed for a two-week duration. Please begin to prepare alternative accommodations for your child in the event that a closure is warranted. The Stonington school community will be informed about the need for a school closing through our social media outlets, email, a live phone message, and letters posted on our district website. In addition, the district will keep the school community apprised of updates through regular communications as the situation may change.
- Should the district need to close, the days missed will be made up prior to June 30th.

What All Can Do To Assist:

- Wash hands thoroughly and often.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipes.

Please Communicate Health Concerns:

- If staff or students are experiencing illness symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath), please stay home and communicate these symptoms to your doctor/pediatrician and to the school nurse.
- If staff or students/families are traveling out of the state or country over the next 7 weeks, please communicate this information to respective school leaders.

Enclosed with this letter are some useful resources for families and staff to use regarding educating students, modeling healthy habits, and facts about COVID-19. We are hopeful that our school community is not affected by this illness. Thank you for your understanding and partnership as we work together through this challenge!

Sincerely,



Dr. Van Riley
Superintendent

VR/amd

Enclosures