

Richmond Consolidated School

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Jill Pompei, Principal

March 5, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are in daily correspondence with the Massachusetts Department of Health (DPH) and the National Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to monitor the 2019 Novel Coronavirus and follow their guidelines for schools. As you are aware, Massachusetts has one confirmed case of COVID-19 and the risk to our residents remains low. That said, the risk for influenza continues to be high. Currently at Richmond Consolidated School, the health office has seen a decline in cold and flu symptoms, which we hope continue!

We are continuing in following the guidance set forth from DPH and CDC. The following are preventative measures we are doing at school, as student and staff safety are our top priority:

- We regularly monitor absences and illness trends. We ask families to call the Health Office to report any flu or viral illness so that we can immediately identify patterns in our school building. You have been doing a wonderful job of this and we appreciate the effort very much!
- Our custodial staff thoroughly cleans the school daily and routinely disinfects classrooms. If there are multiple illness absences in a particular classroom the custodians are notified and that space receives additional disinfectant treatment. Shared Chrome books are wiped down with an EPA-Approved disinfectant. In addition, prior to any technology class, the students are utilizing hand sanitizer. In the event a student becomes ill at school our custodial staff is trained to use disinfectants in a safe and effective manner to clean up potentially infectious materials and body fluid spills.

The guidance is as same as last week. There is no need for students to stay home from school or for anyone to wear masks at school. Families can continue to take steps to prevent many viral illnesses by:

- Getting a Flu Shot if you have not already done so.
- Reminding children to continue good hand washing practices at home and at school. **This is the single most effective way for all of us to stay healthy!**
- Teaching children to cover coughs and sneezes with their elbow, and avoid touching the eyes, nose, or mouth to lessen the spread of infection.
- Washing hands or using hand sanitizer after being out in public places.
- Staying home from work or school if you have symptoms of a viral illness, such as a fever above 100.4 degrees, cough, runny nose, chills, or body aches.
- Remaining home after an illness develops until you have been symptom free and fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of Tylenol or Ibuprofen/Motrin.

Please don't hesitate to contact the health office with any questions or concerns you may have. We realize the news media reports are worrisome but we want to reassure you that there is no public threat for Richmond Consolidated School at this time. We will continue to monitor this health concern and will keep you updated should the situation develop or new pertinent information is made available.

Sincerely,

Cristina Lenfest, BSN, RN

School Nurse

For more information please visit:

<https://www.mass.gov/resource/information-on-the-outbreak-of-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html>

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