**Richmond Consolidated School**

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 *Jill Pompi, Principal*

March 12, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Moving forward, with guidance from local officials, DPH, and DESE, we have collaboratively decided to put in other preventative measures to keep our community as healthy as possible at RCS. As stated by DESE, “*Each situation is unique, but we suggest you evaluate the risk in light of the growing number of coronavirus cases.*” For this reason, in this rapidly changing situation, we have decided to take the following actions to help decrease any potential exposure for 30 days. These measures are:

* all non academic activities as well as all extracurricular activities, including but not limited to, after school gym use, after school clubs, committee meetings, and third grade senior friends will be cancelled or postponed for the next thirty days and revisited for the remainder of the school year
* Jen Daily’s presentation for families on March 13 will be postponed and a new date will be decided
* when picking up or dropping off your child(ren), you may continue to check in at the front office, but we request that you remain there
* in the event you have a meeting at the school, please use the hand sanitizer station upon entering the building

We continue to have numerous hand sanitizing stations throughout the building. We also are continuing in answering student concerns in a caring and compassionate way individually as well in the CARES and Health Classes. As a reminder, 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,

Jill Pompi, Principal

For more information, please visit:

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

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

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