



Littleton Public Schools

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February 28, 2020

Dear Littleton Families,

We understand that many families may have questions regarding the recent outbreak of the Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) around the world and more recently within our nation. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as well as the MA Board of Health, provide updates and recommendations specific to routines and practices that will help prevent the transmission of 2019-nCoV. Please click on the following link to access a recent update from the MA Board of Health. <https://www.smores.com/b9u7a-ma-dph-advisory-covid-19>

While this is a public health concern, the CDC and MA Board of Health continue to report that the immediate risk to the general public remains low at this time. Yet, in today's connected world, with a number of families traveling during school vacation weeks, the potential for infectious disease is always of concern. As with seasonal flu, colds and strep infections, there are suggested precautions that we can take to remain as healthy as possible.

- Practice good hand hygiene. Wash your hands often and thoroughly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands. Use Alcohol-based hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available.
- When coughing and sneezing, cover your mouth and nose with a tissue. You can also cough or sneeze into your sleeve. Throw used tissues in the trash and immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid sharing drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, dishes, towels or other items. Wash these items thoroughly with soap and water after use.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick whenever possible.
- Practice other good health habits: Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at home, work or school, especially when someone is ill. Get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids, and eat nutritious food.
- For any families that have recently traveled out of the country to an area that has known Coronavirus cases, please report any flu or cold symptoms to your primary care provider.

It is important to keep children home from school when they are ill. If your child has moderate to severe symptoms, please keep them home. **Our attendance policy for illnesses includes:** students must be **free from fever for 24 hrs. without the use of medications** –and if positive for strep throat they must be on antibiotics for 24 hrs. before returning to school. Students who have experienced vomiting and/or diarrhea **must remain out of school for 24 hrs. after the last**

It is the policy of the Littleton Public Schools not to discriminate on the basis of race, gender, religion, national origin, color, homelessness, sexual orientation, gender identity, age or disability in its educational programs, services, activities or employment practices. Further information may be obtained by contacting Justine Muir, District Equity Coordinator at 978-540-2500, jmuir@littletonps.org or 33 Shattuck Street, P.O. Box 1486, Littleton, MA 01460.

Our mission is to foster a community of learners who strive for excellence and prepare each student to be a successful, contributing citizen in a global society.

episode. Following these precautions can help prevent the spread to other students and allows your child to rest and recover fully. Please reach out to our school nurse if you have questions as to whether you should send your child to school during an illness.

Throughout the district, we have taken additional preventative measures with cleaning and sanitizing practices in all of our buildings. During the February break, we completed a thorough cleaning using disinfectants to sanitize our schools. We will continue to use disinfectants throughout the flu and cold season as a preventative measure to help minimize the spread of germs within our schools. We have also increased the number of hand sanitizers in our schools as an additional means of keeping our schools as sanitized as possible.

We will continue to monitor updates and recommended preventative practices that are provided by the CDC, MA Board of Health, as well as our local Board of Health and, will, implement additional recommendations that are suggested. We are deeply committed to student and staff wellness and will continue to share new information with you, as it becomes available. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to your school nurse.

Sincerely,



Dr. Kelly R. Clenchy
Superintendent of Schools



Mrs. Kathleen McCarthy
Nurse Leader