



March 3, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The East Windsor Public Schools has been working closely with the North Central District Health Department (NCDHD) and the Connecticut Department of Public Health as we develop a plan for the potential transmission of the coronavirus. While there are currently **no cases** of the coronavirus in our state, it is important that we prepare for any cases that we may encounter in our schools and community.

As part of our preparation, we ask that all parents complete a brief survey regarding their internet service. We have been asked by the state to begin planning in case we have to respond to a substantial health threat here in our community. Please click on the link to complete this brief survey <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BSXQYX6>.

The coronavirus or COVID-19 as it has been termed, was first found in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. There are cases being diagnosed all over the world including the United States. We presently have 63 cases in the United States with cases confirmed in New York, Rhode Island, Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Listed below are the facts that we presently know from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

How Does 2019 Novel (New) Coronavirus Spread?

COVID-19 is believed to be spread through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes, much in the way the flu and other respiratory viruses are spread. Persons are considered at risk if they are in close contact with someone infected with the coronavirus.

As I stated previously, COVID-19 is **not actively** circulating in Connecticut at this time. Therefore, there is no need to cancel school or social events, and according to the CDC. There is also **no need** for students or school staff to wear surgical masks at school.

What are the Steps for Prevention?

There are currently no vaccines available to protect against this virus. We will continue to follow CDC recommendations to prevent the spread of all respiratory viruses including COVID-19. These include the following:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Routinely clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Obtain a flu vaccine

Symptoms

Patients with COVID-19 have mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19. There are no specific antiviral treatments for COVID-19. People with COVID-19 can seek medical care to help relieve symptoms.


The CDC and the North Central District Health Department will direct our protocols and procedures as it relates to the detection and quarantine of those infected with this virus. If a student or staff member shows respiratory symptoms with related travel, our school nurses will follow the appropriate protocols using the necessary precautions to treat those students and staff members. These individuals will be referred to the NCDHD who will conduct the mandatory measures to ensure the health and safety of our students, staff and the community.

Coronavirus is an emergent and rapidly changing situation. Please consult the CDC website for updated information about the coronavirus. <https://www.cdc.gov/COVID19> There are also other informational links posted on our school website under health.

The health and safety of our students and staff in our schools is our top priority. We will continue to work diligently with NCDHD to be sure we are prepared in the event that the coronavirus occurs in Connecticut. We ask that if your child is sick that you call the school nurse and report your child's symptoms so that not only can we track illnesses but we also can serve as a resource for you in treating your child's symptoms.

Thank you for your continued support in keeping our students and staff safe and healthy. Please keep informed by checking the CDC website as information is updated daily. We will keep our school website updated as much as possible. If you have any questions, feel free to call your school nurse.

Sincerely,



Wendy Gage RN BSN NCSN
Health Care Coordinator
East Windsor Public Schools

