



School Administrative Unit No. 80

"Engaging all learners to succeed in their ever changing world"

Serving the Communities of Belmont and Canterbury

Shaker Regional School District

58 School Street

Belmont, NH 03220

March 13, 2020

Dear Shaker Regional Families and Staff,

I am writing to provide you with an update regarding COVID-19 (Coronavirus). At this time, New Hampshire is still considered to be a "low risk" state. There have been 80 people tested for COVID-19, with 6 confirmed cases. **Please know that we currently do not have any confirmed cases in our community.** There are also no community-wide transmissions in our state. However, our district is taking the situation seriously. We continue to receive updates and recommendations from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Center for Disease Control (CDC), and New Hampshire Department of Education (NHDOE). The following recommendations are based on recent communications with these organizations. We will be following these recommendations.

Field Trips:

The recommendation is to discourage international travel [Travel Info](#). They also discourage travel within the United States to states that are considered "hot spots" [U.S. Travel](#). Decisions regarding field trips will be made on a case-by-case basis in accordance with guidance from DHHS and NHDOE. We will inform you of any decision to cancel or postpone a field trip in a timely manner.

Events:

New Hampshire is currently a low-risk area for the spread of COVID-19. Inviting people from around New Hampshire for an event does not in itself increase the risk of exposure. However, if we have an event that would draw attendees from out of state or across the country, including from high-risk areas, we would cancel or postpone the event. Recent guidance also states that any event that draws 200 or more attendees should be canceled or postponed. An example is our postponing of the Monster Concert.

Students, staff and volunteers who have traveled, are planning to travel or are returning from travel:

If students, staff and volunteers have traveled, are returning from traveling or are planning to travel internationally, please let the principal or nurse of the school know this information. Travel on cruise ships and/or overseas may require a 14-day quarantine before re-entry into the school setting. Travel within the United States may require a 14-day quarantine before re-entry into the school setting as well. These determinations will be made on a case-by-case basis in accordance with guidance from DHHS and NHDOE.

School Closures:

DHHS and NHDOE are not currently recommending school closure. They do not believe the state of COVID-19 in New Hampshire warrants closing schools. Decisions around whether or not to implement school closure would be highly dependent on the epidemiology of COVID-19 in New Hampshire and would involve many considerations that balance potential benefits against potential harms. DHHS cannot predict how COVID-19 will occur here in New Hampshire. The hope is that community transmission will be limited and that school closures would never be required. We would be contacted by DHHS and NHDOE with a recommendation or requirement to close our schools. In the event of school closure, we will make sure students can continue their learning remotely.

Protecting yourself and others:

There are steps you can take to reduce your risk of getting sick from viral respiratory infections, and help prevent transmitting infections to others, including:

- 1) Wash your hands **OFTEN** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Alcohol based sanitizer is acceptable if soap and water are not available
- 2) Cover your mouth and nose with the inside of your elbow when you cough or sneeze
- 3) Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- 4) Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- 5) **Stay home when you are sick. Students, staff and volunteers should stay at home for at least 24 hours after the last signs of a fever without the use of fever reducing medicine**
- 6) Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces (i.e. phones, door knobs, tables).

The status of COVID-19 in our state is a rapidly changing situation. We will continue to stay on top of the situation through communications with our state and local health officials. Again, please know that we do not have any confirmed cases in our community. I will provide you with updates that might impact our schools as I receive them. As always, the well-being and safety of our students and staff is our top priority. Please feel free to contact me, your building principal or school nurse if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Tursi
Superintendent of Schools