



WESTPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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February 11, 2020

Dear Westport Families,

On behalf of the Westport Public Schools, we want to assure you that we are carefully monitoring the status of Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV). The district has been working in collaboration with our District Medical Advisor, the Westport Health Department and by extension, the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH), to follow the latest guidance regarding 2019-nCoV from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Fortunately, to date, no cases of 2019-nCoV have been identified in Connecticut.

While the risk of contracting 2019-nCoV remains low in our area, influenza continues to be particularly prevalent in Connecticut. The same steps which prevent other respiratory viruses, including influenza from spreading, can also prevent 2019-nCoV from spreading. As such, the district is continuing with standard infection control precautions in our schools, including routine cleaning of regularly touched surfaces. In an effort to reduce the spread of respiratory viruses, please remember to:

- cover coughs/sneezes;
- frequently and thoroughly wash hands;
- routinely clean touched objects and surfaces;
- keep children home when they have early symptoms indicative of flu (e.g. fever, headache, extreme fatigue, dry cough, sore throat, muscle aches or runny nose with unusual tiredness); and
- keep children home until they are fully recovered from an illness (e.g., have no fever, vomiting or diarrhea for at least 24 hours, are no longer significantly fatigued or in need of extra sleep, and have significantly reduced respiratory symptoms).

We anticipate updates from DPH as new information becomes available.

Additional information can be found on the links below.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

<https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Public-Health-Preparedness/Main-Page/2019-Novel-Coronavirus>

We thank you for your help with respect to this important matter.

Sincerely,

David E. Abbey
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