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February 6, 2020

Dear Sharon School Community,

The Sharon Health Department has shared a public statement regarding the emerging global health concern, the 2019 Novel Coronavirus, 2019-nCoV. This strand of coronavirus was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China. As of February 5, 2020, there are eleven confirmed cases in the United States (California, Washington State, Massachusetts, Illinois, and Arizona).

We understand that there is widespread concern and anxiety, as well as questions in regards to the precautions that we are taking in Sharon schools to detect and prevent the spread of the Coronavirus. Many communities across the state of Massachusetts and the nation are taking precautions to address the widespread concerns and prevent the spread of the disease. We take this concern very seriously and assure you that we are working collaboratively with our nursing staff, the public health department and custodial department to ensure that we take the proper measures to keep our students and staff safe.

Our nurse leader, Ms. Karen Waitikus, is in contact with the Sharon Health Department, who are closely monitoring new and emerging information from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Additionally, we have put several preventative measures in place to keep SPS students and staff safe and healthy, including the following:

- The nursing department regularly share and send helpful prevention tips, and updates to families, monitor absentee rates, and conduct infectious disease surveillance.
- Our custodians have been instructed to be extra vigilant and are in the process of disinfecting our school buildings and central administration offices.
- Healthy school environments are always our priority and we work to stop the spread of unnecessary illnesses such as the flu. As in the past, if a student has a fever, it is our school policy to send the child home immediately and the child must remain home, fever-free for at least 24-hours without the use of any fever reducing medications (e.g. Tylenol, Motrin, etc.).
- We also hold all of our staff to the same standards as our students: we ask that any employee with a fever, go home and stay home until they are fever free for 24-hours (i.e. a temperature below 100 degrees without the use of fever reducing medications).


Sharon Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, disability, gender identity, homelessness, national origin, religion, sex or sexual orientation.

Please know that we take matters of public health concerns very seriously and are closely monitoring this situation.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your school office or school nurse. We will send updates in light of any new information that we receive.

For current and accurate information regarding the Coronavirus visit the CDC website (<https://www.cdcc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>).

Sincerely,

  
Victoria L. Greer, PhD  
Superintendent of Schools