

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As you are aware, there have been many recent media reports about Coronavirus disease 2019, (COVID-19). The Simsbury Public Schools has been in direct contact with the Farmington Valley Health District, in conjunction with the Center of Disease Control (CDC), to closely monitor the situation. There are no verified cases of COVID-19 in Connecticut.

COVID-19 is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. The symptoms can be mild to severe, similar to a cold, including cough, sneeze, runny nose, congestion, body aches, and fever. More severe symptoms include wheezing and difficulty breathing.

The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. However, as a reminder, CDC always recommends everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases, including:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.

As a precautionary step, the Simsbury Public Schools' custodial staff is engaged in extra cleaning procedures throughout the schools.

Following the directives from emergency management, we have initiated efforts toward continuity planning should schools be compelled to close. We continue to receive updates from the Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security. I will keep you informed of any specifics as they arise. For additional information about this virus, please visit the CDC website.

Sincerely

Matt Curtis  
Superintendent of Schools