

Dear Parents/Guardians,

On February 28, 2020, I sent a [communication](#) regarding Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), including symptoms and preventative actions. The Simsbury Public Schools is in regular contact with the Farmington Valley Health District (FVHD) and the State Department of Education (CSDE) to keep updated on the situation. Next week, I will be participating in a meeting with other area superintendents and nurse supervisors, convened by the FVHD. There remain no verified cases of COVID-19 in Connecticut. However, I wanted to provide additional information to parents/guardians.

Absence Reporting and Tracking

We are monitoring student and staff absences to help us identify trends in classrooms and schools. If your child is absent, please call the school and explain the reason for absence. Students should be symptom and fever free for 24 hours, without the use of fever or symptom reducing medications, before returning to school.

School and Bus Cleaning

The Simsbury Public Schools' custodial staff is engaged in extra cleaning procedures throughout the schools. These include the cleaning of door knobs, desk, counter, and table tops, as well as other frequently touched surfaces. Additionally, teachers are encouraging students to wash their hands at various times throughout the day. Further, Salter's Express is cleaning bus seats and railings daily.

Family and School-Sponsored Travel

If you are planning family travel, please refer to the following, regularly updated CDC travel website. Please inform us if you are planning a trip outside of the U.S., inclusive of destination. Should you or family members have symptoms of illness upon return, please keep your child at home and contact your family physician. Additionally, contact your school nurse should this be the case.

The district is conducting an on-going review of all planned school trips. To date, we have cancelled an international trip to Italy which was planned for April vacation. We will continue to monitor travel plans, in conjunction with any guidance from the Farmington Valley Health District and the Center for Disease Control.

Educational Continuity

If we ever had to cancel school, the decision would be made in consultation with the FVHD, CSDE, and the State Department of Public Health. In order to keep our options open, we have begun looking into the logistics of distance learning. Please know that this approach requires considerable logistical and curricular planning with teachers and administrators to ensure all students have access to their education.

If you have additional questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to your child's school nurse or building principal. Certainly, I will continue to update you should there be new information to share.

Matt Curtis
Superintendent of Schools