



Regional School Unit No. 18

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Parents,

In our schools, as is the case across the country, there are valid concerns about the spread of the Corona Virus (COVID-2019). We know and respect how serious this is, but it is important to listen to our resources, stick to facts and not panic and scare our students. There is currently no vaccine to prevent the Corona Virus. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Maine School Management Association reminds schools and parents that the best way to prevent the spread of this virus is to use the same precautions we urge people to take to prevent the spread of the flu.

- Frequent and thorough washing of hands and avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- 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.

As recent as yesterday, we were in contact with the Maine CDC asking for guidance on specific issues around student attendance. At this time there are no plans to cancel events or close our schools. As we communicate with state and medical officials, we will listen to and communicate any official recommendations with our parents and our communities.

Another question I have received is: what can families do to prepare? On the CDC website there is information about preparedness for families and communities. One of the recommendations from the CDC in preparing for any emerging situation would include basic supply kits: food, water, prescriptions and other medications, cell phone and charger, doctor and insurance information, and other items depending on your family make up and the timeframe you are preparing for.

There is no reported emergency in Maine at this time. However, we know that all of this information is changing quickly. Therefore, we urge people to simply be aware, follow the precautions provided by the CDC and keep up to date with current information.

For more information from the CDC visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Carl Gartley

Superintendent of Schools, RSU 18

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