

WHITE RIVER VALLEY SUPERVISORY UNION


461 Waterman Road • Royalton, VT 05068
Phone: 802-763-8840 • FAX: 802-763-3235

Bruce C. Labs
Superintendent

Tara Weatherell
Business Manager

Deborah Matthews
Director of Special Services

Mary Ellen Simmons
Director of Curriculum,
Instruction, Assessment

To: White River Valley School District Community
From: Bruce Labs Superintendent of Schools 
Date: March 2nd, 2020
RE: Coronavirus Update and School Preparations

As I am sure you are aware, whenever you turned on the news the last few days you have seen the unfolding events taking place around the world concerning the Coronavirus (COVID-19). We have seen in the last few days confirmed cases in surrounding states including New Hampshire and New York. Here in Vermont, we have been told that there are at least several cases that are currently being monitored.

I called a meeting this morning with the administrative team from all of the schools in the SU to plan steps we feel we must take to make precautions in our schools for prevention. We will be working with the Vermont Secretary of Education office and the US Department of Health and Human Services Center for Disease Control and Prevention as the prime source of our direction of how we are going to plan for and respond to the impending spread of the virus. We would ask for your understanding and help with this effort. We will be implementing the following measures in every school and every classroom in the SU.

- We will be asking students and staff members to:
 - stay home when they are sick.
 - frequently wash their hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer when possible.
 - to avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands and to wash their hands after touching their face.
 - to avoid close contact with people who are sick.
 - to cover their cough or sneeze with their sleeve or a tissue. Throw the tissue in the trash and wash their hands.
- We will be making available the supplies needed for the increased cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched objects and surfaces like desktops, computers and other school furniture.
- We will avoid having parents congregating at pick up and drop off areas in groups at each school.
- We will also be suspending field trips to avoid close student contact.
- The March 11th inservice will be restructured to have staff work together from their building instead of in one school as had been planned.

We take the safety of our students and staff very seriously and we intend to take any measures possible to ensure their health and well being. We will monitor the situation closely.

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