

COVID-19 (coronavirus)

**This is a dynamic and fluid circumstance so please keep abreast of current information.
Be calm. Stay informed. Plan ahead.**

As you can imagine we are receiving direction and guidance from many government agencies including the State Department of Education and the Connecticut State Department of Administrative Services, and the Connecticut Department of Public Health. As we receive guidance, we process and connect it to prior messages and integrate the information into our planning and response actions.

We will continue to update you as more information comes in and if action related to our school community is required. For now we are meeting, planning, coordinating, and processing in preparation for possible action by developing an array of contingency plans. We will be considering plans for such actions as prolonged school closings, alternative instruction via distance learning, employee matters, student matters including sporting events, health services, and other steps. Continue to maintain awareness that we are also responsible to protect against discrimination, stigmatization, and unsafe environments.

Create a family plan that responds to possible disruption in service, routine events, school closings, and access to crucial supplies such as medications. Please note that all personal medical information is confidential.

Note: There have been no school closures directed by Federal or state officials.

Below is some of our most recent guidance related to COVID-19 from our Area Health Director.

Highlights from March 4th meeting with the Area Director of Health and the Connecticut Department of Public Health. These notes are developed directly from the Area Director's notes.

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1. Remain calm and thoughtful. Check your sources of information.
2. Preston is panning for preventative measures, school cleanings, and closure. We have already intensified cleaning procedures in schools and on buses.
3. What is the plan for school closures in the event of a positive case?

School closing plans statewide are still a work in progress in Connecticut.

Note: School with positive COVID-19 in Rhode Island is closed for two weeks.

Think about school closure in 2 different ways:

A) In response to a laboratory-confirmed case of COVID-19, the school will likely need to be closed for two weeks.

This will be accomplished at a local level with the school Superintendent and the Local Health Department.

It is possible that schools where brothers and sisters or folks related to the positive findings may also be closed for two weeks

B) To decrease community transmission of the virus as a community mitigation effort, which can be very disruptive, will need to be thought out.

Preston leadership in the process of doing this now in preparation for possible future action.

4. Right now, international travel is being discouraged. No travel restrictions in the US at this time. However, this is a fluid issue, and individual airlines and states may make other decisions. Students, families, and staff should be thinking ahead to April break and developing family based plans.

5. There are NO confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Connecticut at this time. The lab is testing. Only enough reagents at DPH lab for 600 tests, so the doctors are selecting individuals that have the indicated symptoms.

6. There could be delivery disruptions of supply chains for the next 4-8 weeks.

7. Mass gatherings – will be driven by what the state and local area experience. If we had sustained community transmission, the answer would be clear (no mass gatherings).

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