

Somerset Public Schools

Somerset Berkley Regional School District

All Students Achieving Excellence

March 8, 2020

Dear Families,

Whereas there have not been any local impacts due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Somerset and Berkley, concerns about the Coronavirus continue to grow. In Somerset and Somerset Berkley, we continue to receive updates and follow guidance from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

During this past week, I met with our entire custodial staff to ensure that sanitizing desks, railings, door handles, and other commonly touched surfaces are happening daily and that our custodians have the supplies and equipment they need. For instance, we have purchased two additional deep cleaning foggers that allow us to effectively and efficiently sanitize and disinfect classrooms and large open areas. I also met with Somerset's Health Agent and Town Nurse to ensure that we are working together and sharing information as we receive it from the state and other sources. Additionally, Fisher Bus Company and the school departments are cleaning school buses and special education vans throughout the week.

As I noted last week, many of the precautions that help prevent colds and the flu can help protect against other respiratory viruses such as the Coronavirus. The Massachusetts DPH recommends the following general precautions that we can all take to remain as healthy as possible:

- Practice good hand hygiene. Wash your hands often and thoroughly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands. Use Alcohol-based hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available.
- When coughing and sneezing, cover your mouth and nose with a tissue. You can also cough or sneeze into your sleeve. Throw used tissues in the trash and immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Stay away from people who are sick and stay home when you are sick.

Among the reputable, informative resources that are available to learn more about COVID-19 include the following:

- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [Massachusetts Department of Health](#)
- [World Health Organization](#)

The Somerset Public Schools and Somerset Berkley Regional School District remain deeply committed to student and staff wellness. We will continue to take all appropriate measures and implement best practices that are recommended by state and federal agencies as we both monitor and minimize the risk of contracting the coronavirus in our schools. We will continue to share pertinent information with you, as necessary, about this evolving situation.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Schoonover