

Ayer Shirley Regional School District

Office of The Superintendent



www.asrsd.org

March 9, 2020

Dear Ayer Shirley School Community:

The complex situation presented by the coronavirus is a concern and challenge for all. We are monitoring this situation daily and will be sure to keep you informed as the situation evolves.

On February 28, 2020, we sent a letter informing you of the actions we were taking, and we continue to take such actions to keep the schools clean and disinfected to ensure a safe and healthy learning environment. Under the direction and coordination of Mr. Robert Briggs, Director of Facilities, the custodians continue to treat all surfaces with a misting disinfectant.

All schools have some disinfecting wipes in hand. As you know, there is a shortage; we placed an order on Friday. Hopefully, the order will be filled.

Each school principal has presented hand washing demonstrations to students and will continue to reinforce frequent hand washing during school hours. Our administrators, educators, and school nurses have done an excellent job in communicating the importance of frequent hand washing.

Dee Bus has been contacted and will disinfect the buses more frequently. We also will send a crew over to disinfect the buses with the disinfectant misting spray.

Governor Baker and the US State Department directed all international travel by students be cancelled. We have cancelled the student trip to France planned for April break. Students and their families were extremely disappointed, but understand.

The Commissioner of Education held a conference call on Friday with superintendents to review policy and answer questions from the field. I have been in contact with the local Board of Health. Please be assured I am staying on top of this daily and right now we need to continue to practice prevention.

The principals and I are monitoring absenteeism and as of Friday, March 6, 2020, attendance rates remain stable.

We strongly encourage you adhere to these protocols and guidance for prevention:

1. Wash hands with warm water frequently and thoroughly for 20 seconds
2. Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth
3. Clean surfaces that are frequently touched
4. Cover mouth when coughing and sneezing - Use a tissue or inner elbow
5. Students and employees who are sick are encouraged to stay home

On our district website we have posted a [link to the Department of Public Health](#). Please visit this website for updated information. As noted, this situation is monitored daily and we all should follow the guidance of the experts.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at mmalone@asrsd.org or at 978-772-8600 Ext 1508, your child's school nurse, and our Nurse Leader, Rene Paine, at 978-772-8600 Ext 1406. We will keep you updated as information changes or we need to take further action.

I would like to extend my deep appreciation to the administrators and staff for their diligence in working through this ever-changing situation.

Sincerely,
Mary Malone, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools