



Hartford School District

73 Highland Avenue, White River Junction VT 05001

Thomas DeBalsi, Superintendent

www.hsdvt.com

802-295-8600

March 6, 2020

Dear Hartford:

This letter is to inform you about how the school district is informed about the COVID-19 Virus and what we are doing to prevent the spread of the disease in the Hartford School District.

First of all you should know that the district administration receive regular, at least daily updates and alerts from the Vermont Department of Health (DOH), the Vermont Agency of Education (AOE) and the National Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The notices we receive are specific to the virus in Vermont, and specifically to what Vermont schools should be doing to prevent the virus from spreading. Additionally, we are reviewing how to prepare our schools for the virus, if it were to be present here in Vermont schools. The DOH, the AOE and the CDC are our primary sources of information and the agencies we rely on for guidance and direction. Our nursing staff also receive regular updates and are a tremendous resource for all of us in this situation.

To date, the DOH, the AOE and the CDC have not recommended we restrict student activities, other than overseas trips to China, Iran, South Korea and Italy. The school administrators are considering each student trip carefully and we are making sure we know the current CDC warnings for the location of the trip. We are also trying to anticipate the spread of the virus in relation to the location and date of any scheduled trip.

Currently, the **most important best defense to combating the spread of the virus in our schools is to:**

[Know the symptoms](#) and follow these steps:

- **Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds**
- **Do not touch your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands**
- **Avoid close contact with people who are sick**
- **Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands**
- **Clean and disinfect objects and surfaces**
- **Stay home from work or school if you have a fever or are not feeling well**

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Please know that our custodial and cleaning staff are taking extra precautions to clean and disinfect surfaces and areas daily, or more often, that could cause the spread of the virus.

Lastly, if you or your child has traveled overseas, especially to one of the high impact countries; Italy, China, Iran, Japan or South Korea, please take extra precautions and check with your health care provider about whether you or they should be screened and cleared before returning to school.

Note: If you have concern over the case at DHMC and the fact that the individual attended an event at the Engine Room, here is WRJ over the weekend, please review the following specific VT DOH announcement about it, below.

UPDATE: March 4, 2020

Patrons of the Engine Room in White River Junction determined not at risk for COVID-19
People who attended the private event at The Engine Room in White River Junction on the evening of Friday, February 28, and were determined to be a close contact to the person who tested COVID-19 presumptive positive, have been contacted.

Any other patrons of The Engine Room have been determined to not be at risk for COVID-19, and are not being asked to quarantine or have testing for COVID-19. If you have questions or concerns about this event, please contact the Vermont Health Department 802-863-7240. For more info on the new coronavirus, visit healthvermont.gov/COVID-19.

As always, please do not hesitate to let me know your thoughts and concerns. Thank you for your time and have a great day.



Thomas DeBalsi
Superintendent of Schools

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*"Let us put our heads together and see what life we will make for our children."
- Sitting Bull, Lakota Leader*