



Friday, March 6, 2020

Dear ACES Families and Staff,

We are committed to providing our families and staff with the most current and accurate information on Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19). We are closely monitoring the Connecticut Departments of Health, Education, and appropriate State agencies in order to make well-informed decisions concerning our learning communities. In addition to our email communications, we will be providing information on our website, www.aces.org.

We want to remind you of the preventative steps our stakeholders should take at home and in their learning environment. To help prevent a Coronavirus infection, do the same things you do to avoid the common cold and seasonal influenza. Early on symptoms of COVID-19 are very similar to those of seasonal influenza and may include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. At ACES, we continue to implement established protocol for preventing spread of other infectious diseases. Our facilities department is cleaning schools thoroughly, including the use of disinfectants to wipe down tables, desktops, door handles, and other touch points where germs and infection can be present. On March 5th, the state waived green standards allowing for use of higher concentration cleaning products to support extra sanitary measures.

We ask that families and staff support these efforts in the home by:

- Encouraging Handwashing:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d914EnpU4Fo&feature=emb_title
- Teaching and practicing cough etiquette – cough or sneeze into elbow
- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Staff and students should stay home if they have any of these symptoms:
 - Temperature of 100° or more
 - Sore throat
 - Uncontrolled cough
 - Constant runny nose
 - Vomiting or diarrhea (not typically signs of flu or 2019 nCoV)
- Have a plan for picking your child up from school in the event of illness

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- For guidance in talking to your children: <https://store.samhsa.gov/system/files/sma14-4886.pdf>

We are staying informed by our regional medical-health experts and understand that there is a realistic possibility that schools and districts in Connecticut could experience prolonged closures because of a Coronavirus outbreak. Although the threat level is still low, we are asking our families to plan for the potential of an extended school closure of 10-14 days.

ACES staff with agency-allocated technology should bring their laptops home daily. We also suggest that students who possess ACES-assigned technology should bring this resource home each day. Please know that while we are actively engaged with students to encourage healthy practices, we are equally careful not to cause them unnecessary concern. As always, the health and well-being of our students, staff, and learning community is our highest priority. We will continue to communicate new information to our families and employees as needed.

Thank you,
Tom Danehy and the ACES Emergency Response Team

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