



Dear ACES Families and Employees:

We continue to monitor the potential impact at the community level and want to assure you that we are actively staying updated on the status within our own communities. ACES is following the guidance of the Connecticut Department of Public Health, and the situation is being monitored closely at our local and regional levels.

There have been no confirmed cases in Connecticut and the State remains prepared, including their support to local communities and schools in the event of an outbreak. For information, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

At ACES, we continue to implement established protocol for preventing spread of other infectious diseases:

We are in communication with state and federal resources regionally and will follow protocols should a case be confirmed in the community. In the meantime, our facilities department is focused on cleaning schools thoroughly, including the use of disinfectants to wipe down tables, desktops, door handles, and other touch points where germs and infection are often found. All overseas travel through ACES International has been suspended with student study tours rescheduled for the Winter/Spring of 2021.

We ask that employees and families support these efforts by:

- Encouraging and practicing handwashing, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d914EnpU4Fo&feature=emb_title
- Teaching and practicing cough etiquette – cough or sneeze into elbow
- 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 COVID-19)
 - Having a plan for picking your child up from school in the event of illness
 - For guidance in talking to your children about infectious disease outbreaks: <https://store.samhsa.gov/system/files/sma14-4886.pdf>

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What If the Coronavirus is Confirmed in our School or Program?

In the event a case of Coronavirus is confirmed in a school, a decision will be made to take the appropriate steps necessary to mitigate the situation swiftly so that families and staff are notified with a specific plan in place. While there are no confirmed cases, ACES will continue to prepare and take all necessary actions to protect public health. The ACES First Response Team is in place for any agency-wide emergency now and in the future to maintain communication and responsiveness. We will continue to share information so that the ACES community is fully aware of the situation as we continue to monitor and gather information.

Thank you.

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