

Sunday, March 8, 2020

Dear Lamoille North Families and Staff:

I write to you this afternoon with an update regarding the status of COVID-19 in Vermont. On March 7, 2020, health officials announced the first case of coronavirus and are awaiting confirmation of the presumed positive test result by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). What we know is that this case involves an adult who is being treated in Southern Vermont (Bennington).

The Vermont Department of Health (VT DOH) continues to update their website daily at 1:00 p.m. As of today, the guidance remains unchanged. Returning travelers whose last day in China, Iran, Italy, or South Korea was **March 4** or later should stay home and monitor their health for 14 days after returning to the United States. This guidance does not apply to our returning travelers from Central/Southern Italy. Guidance for our travelers is to **self-monitor** for any symptoms, and guidance for **all** members of our school community is to stay home if ill and to be medically assessed if necessary.

Last Friday, the Vermont Agency of Education (VT AOE) and the Vermont Department of Health (VT DOH) issued a joint memorandum to discuss next steps in the effort to reduce spread of this virus in our communities. You can find this guidance on the LNSU website at www.lnsu.org. Margaret Robinson, Director of Public Health Nursing for the VT DOH will be working specifically with school districts and the VT AOE to provide up-to-date guidance on any measures schools should take.

We recognize that we are in a fluid and evolving state with respect to this virus and the changing nature of it is causing anxiety for many. Please also know that Principal Brian Schaffer and I are in touch daily with the VT DOH. In addition, we are anticipating this week, specific guidance from the joint VT AOE and VT DOH team, regarding the measures schools will be directed to take as we go forward in the event this virus enters our communities.

We continue to be available to all of you should you have concerns or questions. Please feel free to reach out to the Vermont Department of Health by calling the main number at 802-863-7240 or by dialing 2-1-1. We care very much about our communities and the people who comprise Lamoille North schools. We will continue to update you as new information becomes available.

My best to you,
Catherine Gallagher