

Kittery

School District

Truth & Knowledge

*Horace Mitchell Primary School
Shapleigh School
R.W. Traip Academy*

200 Rogers Road
Kittery, Maine 03904
Fax (207) 439-5407
www.kitteryschools.com

Eric F. Waddell
Superintendent of Schools
ewaddell@kitteryschools.com
(207) 475-1334

Marilyn P. Woodside
Assistant Superintendent
mwoodside@kitteryschools.com
(207) 475-1335

Jane E. Durgin
Director of Special Services
jdurgin@kitteryschools.com
(207) 475-1331

Lauren A. Lawson
Human Resources
llawson@kitteryschools.com
(207) 475-1338

Lisa Harkin
Accounting Manager
lharkin@kitteryschools.com
(207) 475-1327

TO: KITTERY SCHOOL DISTRICT FAMILIES

FROM: ERIC WADDELL, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS



DATE: FEBRUARY 26, 2020

RE: COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS)

You may be aware that the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) gave a press conference yesterday updating the country on the current status of the coronavirus (COVID-19), and what steps should be taken moving forward. We wanted to share with you some of the steps that the Kittery School District is taking to prevent the spread of illness in our three schools and plans for the possible spread of the coronavirus in our community.

As the CDC emphasized, there is ***not currently a coronavirus pandemic in the United States***. A pandemic occurs when a disease is spreading from a variety of sources across a large region, and the number of cases across the US is still small. However, given how quickly the global situation is evolving, we are monitoring new developments and will continue to reevaluate our steps and actions daily.

Meanwhile, the most effective way to stay healthy and minimize the spread of infectious disease is to follow basic health best practices including:

- *Enforcing great hygiene, like washing hands thoroughly with soap and warm water, and covering up coughs/sneezes with the sleeve (never your hands!).*
- *Asking all faculty, staff, and students who are feeling ill to stay home until they recover.*

The Kittery School District has a solid policy regarding infectious disease (Policy JLCC) that the School Committee just revised last fall. I have included it here. It is important to remember that handling the spread of a serious contagion like the coronavirus is primarily a task for public health agencies. Any directives from the World Health Organization, CDC, or local governmental organizations will be followed. Of course, our school nursing staff, directed by Shay Stathoplos, will continue to provide us with guidance about this and other infectious diseases.

I appreciate your continued support and vigilance as we move through the annual flu season and as we consider the possible impact of other infectious diseases like the coronavirus. If you have specific questions about the health of your student, I would urge you to reach out to his/her school nurse.

CODE: JLCC

COMMUNICABLE/INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Teachers should be alert to signs of illness and communicable disease and refer students who show such symptoms to the school nurse.

The Superintendent/school nurse shall be responsible for notifying the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of any student or staff suspected of having a communicable disease, the occurrence of which is required to be reported pursuant to law and/or Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) rules.

The building principal will be notified when a report of communicable disease has been made.

Any student or staff for whom the CDC has prescribed isolation or quarantine shall be excluded from school and school activities for the length of time recommended by the CDC.

Students who have non-notifiable communicable diseases may be excluded from school and school activities, or shall observe other protective procedures according to recommendations issued by the school physician/school health advisor/school nurse.

Notification from the student's health care provider shall be required before a student who has had a "notifiable" communicable disease may return to school or participate in school activities. The building principal and/or school nurse must give permission before the student is readmitted to class.

Legal Reference: 5 MRSA § 19201 et seq.
20-A MRSA §§ 1001(11)(A), 6301
22 MRSA §§ 801, 802, 806, 823, 824
Maine Dept. of Health and Human Services Rule Ch. 258(2015)

Adopted: May 15, 2012
Revised: October 1, 2019