

LACONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Administrative Unit Thirty

"Ensuring success with every student, every day, in every way"

Steve Tucker, Superintendent of Schools
Amy N. Hinds, Assistant Superintendent of Schools **Christine Blouin, Business Administrator**

March 12, 2020

Dear Laconia School District Community,

During a time when there is much information about the Coronavirus (COVID-19), I want to update you on some developments that have occurred in the Laconia School District. I am regularly connecting with various government and health agencies so that we are acting with the most current information possible.

In an age of mobility, the likelihood of exposure to the virus is real. The number of cases will likely rise over time. We have received reports from members of our school community who have been exposed to people who have tested positive and who are suspicious of being positive. Medical professionals are having these people self-quarantining and will continue to do so. We are also working with local emergency planning officials, the New Hampshire Department of Education (NHDOE), the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) so that we can continue to respond on a case-by-case basis with guidance from experts.

Based on a guidance information recently issued by DHHS and the NHDOE, which stated that out-of-state travel should be scrutinized, field trips out of the state and out of the nation are being cancelled until we are given notice from federal and state health experts and government officials that travel is safe. If you have any plans to travel and have not communicated this with your respective building principal at this point, please do so before you leave. We continue to focus on ensuring that our schools are regularly and thoroughly cleaned. We are communicating with people in the school community about travel and working with our nurses to monitor the health of staff and students.

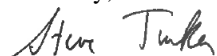
It is important to take precautions to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other respiratory illness, such as the flu, which we frequently see at this time of year. DHHS and the CDC have updated information about the virus as well as steps to take to take to reduce the chance of getting sick. Here are some of their suggestions:

- o Get plenty of rest.
- o Stay hydrated.
- o Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- o Do not touch your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- o Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- o Cough or sneeze into your elbow if tissues are not available and NOT into your hands, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands.
- o Clean and disinfect objects and surfaces.
- o Stay home from work or school if you have a fever or are not feeling well.
- o If you have a fever, you must be fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication (i.e. Tylenol, ibuprofen) before returning to school.

We are planning and preparing so that we are ready a variety of scenarios. We are aware that there have been many closings as a result of the virus. We are making every effort to be proactive to ensure the safety of our school community and to be prepared with measured responses if the need arises. It is our goal to constantly keep you informed to help you make decisions about what is best for you and your families.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact your school nurse, building principal, or the SAU office. You can also call the New Hampshire Division of Public Health at 603-271-4496 and 603-271-5300 after hours.

Sincerely,



Steve Tucker
Superintendent
Laconia School District