



March 12, 2020

Dear Montville Public Schools Staff, Students and Families,

In light of the widespread media coverage on the coronavirus and seasonal influenza, we wanted to share with you the proactive measures which we are following to prevent the spread of infectious disease. We are taking a number of steps to protect the health of our community.

**General Proactive Measures:**

- Our School Nurses closely monitor absences daily, and our School Nurse Coordinator communicates with our contracted district physician as needed.
- Our Custodial Staff, in addition to their normal cleaning schedules, has taken extra precautions during this time. We have stocked every room in the district with disinfectant wipes so that desk surfaces, keyboards, door handles, etc. can be cleaned throughout the day. We have added additional hand sanitizing stations in each school by the front door, the cafeteria, and the main office as well as in hallways. We have posted signs throughout the schools reminding all of the importance of hand washing.
- We ask that all teachers and parents reinforce the importance of good hygiene including hand washing and not sharing food or drinks.
- We are disinfecting school buses and classrooms daily.
- Students and staff members who are sick should stay home.

**Communication:**

- We continue to stay in close contact with the Uncas Health District, the Town of Montville, and the State of Connecticut for information about the flu and the coronavirus. The State and the Uncas Health District send us regular updates to ensure that our practices are consistent across the region, and we seek their advice to address questions and concerns.
- We are in communication with the CT State Department of Education about the best ways to prepare for an extended school closure should that be necessary and will continue to communicate more as guidelines are developed.

**School Trips:**

- Based upon the advisement of the CDC and Uncas Health District, we have canceled the MHS trip to Italy which was scheduled for April.
- At this time, based upon the advice of Uncas Health District and the Connecticut Department of Public Health we have not canceled any trips within the United States.
- Please be aware that we are being told people who travel out of the country may have difficulty trying to return to the U.S.

For anyone who would like to research extra preventative steps, we encourage you to visit the Center for Disease Control and Prevention website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/prevention-treatment.html> or reach out to the Uncas Health District.

Best regards,

Laurie Pallin

Superintendent, Montville Public Schools