

SCITUATE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

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Last night I participated in a call with RI Department of Health (DOH) Director, Dr. Nicole Alexander Scott, RI Commissioner of Education, Angelica Infante-Green, and other RI superintendents and officials to receive an update on Covid-19 (CoronaVirus.)

The message from the state officials was clear. **This is not a time to panic, but is a time to prepare and for everyone to do their part to maintain the public health in RI.**

The Scituate School Department is following the guidelines established by the RI Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. We are in constant communication with Dr. Alexander-Scott and members of the RI Department of Health. Our efforts are being informed and coordinated by the RI Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, based on facts, science, and epidemiology.

I have directed custodians to disinfect classrooms daily, school nurse teachers will monitor the situation from individual buildings and be vigilant in maintaining a close connection with the Department of Health to keep the buildings and the district informed. We will post updates regularly. We are in contact with the transportation and food service companies, directing them to share established protocols for the handling of the situation with us. Our expectation is that they will increase the frequency of already established hygiene procedures. Building administrators will make announcements to students and staff about the importance of preventative measures as outlined by the RI Department of Health. We ask that you encourage and support these important measures at home, as well.

- 1. Frequent handwashing. Hands should be washed after using the bathroom, before eating, after sneezing.**
- 2. Hand sanitizer between handwashing.**
- 3. Reminding students of the need to use elbow to cover all coughing and sneezing.**
- 4. Proper disposal of tissues used for sneezing, coughing and blowing nose.**
- 5. Reminders not to share personal items and food.**
- 6. Avoiding crowded areas.**
- 7. If your child is sick, please KEEP THEM HOME and have them remain at home until feeling better. Do not visit malls, grocery stores or other public places until feeling better.**
- 8. Avoid touching eyes and mouth. If you do, wash your hands.**

Custodians, Teachers and Staff are working diligently to keep your child healthy and safe. Our website offers links to the RI Department of Health for your information.

Again, this is not a time to panic, but to work together using common sense measures of prevention.

Our website offers links to the RI Department of Health for your information.

Please contact your physician and your child's school nurse in the event any member of your family may have come in contact with Coronavirus.

Sincerely,

Carol A. Blanchette, Superintendent

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