March 25, 2020

Dear MTSD Families and Staff

The purpose of this memo is twofold: first to call to your attention Governor Scott’s most recent addition to his State of Emergency Executive Order and second, to inform you of a change in the VT Department of Health’s procedures as it relates to COVID-19.

The onset and now rapid spread of the CoronaVirus is causing immense stress and fear in our community, in Vermont and in our Nation. Milton is a strong community and in order to stay strong, we must continue to exercise compassion, patience and fortitude. We must continue to work together and support each other. In our lifetime there has never been a more important time than now to preserve the health of our community by following the Governor’s directives for mitigating the spread of COVID-19.

Stay Home Stay Safe
Effective March 25th @ 5:00 p.m and lasting until April 15th, is Governor Scott’s Stay Home Safe Order which directs

- Citizens to stay home, except for essential reasons - personal safety, groceries, medicine, exercise...
- All non-essential businesses and nonprofits to cease in-person operations

Undoubtedly, this order will have several implications to the current operations of Vermont schools. Over the next several days, superintendents will receive guidance from the Governor, the Secretary of Education and the VT Department of Health that will clarify how this order applies to the provision of meals, child care for essential persons, the continuity of student learning, and staff reporting to work. Please know that we will provide timely updates to both our MTSD families and staff to keep you informed as it relates to all of these areas.

Slow the Spread
As COVID-19 continues to spread throughout Vermont, it is likely that we will have members in our community both testing positive and exhibiting symptoms without a confirmed test. In the early stages of the pandemic, the VT Department of Health was responsible for ‘tracking’ potential cases and reaching out to close contacts. Now that Vermont has shifted into the community spread phase of the global pandemic, the VT Department of Health is no longer conducting outreach. They continue to investigate cases and provide education and guidance on isolation; however, it is now the responsibility of each individual to relay information to their close contacts.

According to the VT Department of Health, if you learn of someone who is symptomatic and you are concerned that you were in close contact with that person, then it is in your hands to take action, including:
- Self-quarantine
• Inform close contacts if you become symptomatic or if you test positive
• Contact your health provider if you are concerned about your health

**Please remember that as a school district, we are bound by HIPPA.** We are not allowed to notify members of the community and/or provide any type of health-related information that we may have about individuals. Also, as positive cases become more common and word spreads about individuals who have tested positive, please keep in mind the impact on the individual and their family. We are all in this together and want the best for one another and our community.

As always, be proactive:

• Maintain social distancing and limit movement in the community except for essential reason as outlined by the Stay Home, Stay Safe Order
• Continue to practice thorough hand washing
• Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth
• Practice proper coughing etiquette
• Disinfect frequently touched surfaces
• Contact the Vermont Department of Health if you need additional information ([website here.](https://vermont.gov))

Sincerely,

Amy Rex
Superintendent