

Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District



Albert G. Ganem, Jr.
Superintendent of Schools
aganem@hwrzd.org

621 Main Street
Wilbraham, MA 01095
Phone: (413)596-3884
FAX: (413)599-1328

Dear HWRSD Families,

February 27, 2020

We understand that many families have questions regarding the recent outbreak of the Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) and how it may impact our local community. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is providing daily updates and recommendations. Please click on the following link to stay updated: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>. Additionally, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) has current information and guidance at <https://www.mass.gov/guides/information-on-the-outbreak-of-2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19>

While this is a public health concern, the CDC continues to report that the immediate risk to the general public remains low at this time. Yet, in today's connected world, the potential for infectious disease is always of concern. The general precautions we should all take to remain as healthy as possible when the potential exists for exposure to any virus are:

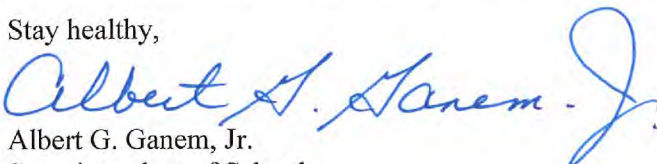
- Practice good hand hygiene. Wash your hands often and thoroughly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands. Use alcohol based hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available.
- When coughing and sneezing, cover your mouth and nose with a tissue. You can also cough or sneeze into your sleeve. Throw used tissues in the trash and immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid sharing drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, dishes, towels, or other items. Wash these items thoroughly with soap and water after use.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick whenever possible.
- Practice other good health habits. Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at home, work or school, especially when someone is ill. Get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids and eat nutritious foods.


It is important to keep children home from school when they are ill. If your child has any of the following symptoms, please keep them home from school: temperature greater than 100.0°, coughing, vomiting, diarrhea, any rash not yet diagnosed by a physician or a red or pink itchy eye with drainage. Children who are sick should stay home until they are feeling well and fever free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication. As always, you should consult your physician if you have any concerns or questions.

The Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) is an evolving situation that we are following closely and the HWRSD will continue to update you as information is shared with us. Please rest assured, as per our standard practice, that our school nurses are monitoring student health concerns. We are in close communication with the local Board of Health, Massachusetts Department of Public Health/School Health Unit, as well as local pediatric health care providers. As we typically do during cold and flu season, our School Facilities Department is vigilantly cleaning and sanitizing our school buildings. We are following all recommended guidelines to ensure the safety and wellness of our students and staff.

We remain deeply committed to the health and wellbeing of our students and staff and will continue to share new, pertinent information with you as the situation evolves.

Stay healthy,


Albert G. Ganem, Jr.
Superintendent of Schools


Teri Brand, RN
HWRSD Nurse Leader

In pursuit of educational excellence, the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District envisions an interactive learning community of creative, passionate thinkers in a safe and healthy environment, embracing opportunities to contribute to and compete in a global society while valuing honesty, integrity, responsibility, and respect for each individual.