



THOMPSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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March 5, 2020

Dear Thompson Families,

Thompson Public Schools continues to keep up with an aggressive cleaning schedule in our schools to ensure a healthy school environment. In addition, the district is working with Dattco Bus Company to ensure that the buses are disinfected and cleaned regularly. All schools are following the same guidelines that are recommended for the flu to mitigate the spread of unhealthy illnesses, including COVID-19 (Coronavirus).

The district is monitoring updates regarding Coronavirus which is posted daily on the Connecticut State website (ct.gov), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (cdc.gov), and frequent updates from the Connecticut Department of Education (ct.gov/SDE) regarding this illness. We encourage all students and their families to follow the protection guidelines below:

- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19 infection. Person-to-person spread of the virus is thought to occur mainly via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Much is still unknown about how the virus spreads. Take these everyday preventative actions to help stop the spread of germs. To date, Connecticut has not reported any cases of this illness.

In the event that our schools are closed for an extended period of time, teachers are preparing lessons to upload on platforms such as Google Docs and creating assignments on other software programs. Elementary teachers are also busy putting together take-home packets that will allow students to practice skills at home. We are not certain any of this will be necessary, however, it is best to be prepared.

Students in middle and high school should be sure that their Chromebooks are in working order. We have staff available to fix any issues with the devices. Students should bring home their Chromebook each day. The charger can remain at home. If you do not have access to internet connection at home, please contact Heather Burns, Technology Director at (860) 923-9581 extension #512.

I have attached two information sheets that may be helpful to you and your family along with a letter I received from Dattco Bus Company. As always, please feel free to reach out to any of our school nurses if you have questions or concerns. I will provide you with updates as they become available.

Sincerely,

Melinda A. Smith, M.Ed.
Superintendent of Schools
