



## SLATE VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

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slatevalleyunified.org

Brooke Olsen-Farrell, Superintendent  
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February 26, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As a school district, we are consistently being updated on the Novel Coronavirus. This virus can lead to fever, cough and trouble breathing. As of today, there are no cases in Vermont. We are thankful for this but remain vigilant and mindful in considering the virus may make its way into our communities. Part of our planning is to continue to encourage and instruct prevention habits that minimize the spread of respiratory illnesses:

- Wash your hands often-especially when you touch public surfaces (bathroom handles, pens/pencils, money, gas pumps, door knobs, shopping carts, etc.) or use hand sanitizer.
- Clean your cell phone and keyboard regularly.
- Use a tissue to cover your cough or sneeze then wash your hands or use hand sanitizer. If you don't have a tissue, then cough or sneeze into your bent elbow.
- Keep your hands away from your mouth and nose, especially if you haven't recently washed your hands.
- Wash your hands before eating.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home/keep your child home if you/they are sick with a fever and respiratory illness and call your doctor.
- Drink plenty of water and get good rest which helps your body fight illness
- Routinely clean surfaces in your home.
- If you are or are caring for infants, elderly or chronically ill at home, be sure to practice the above and minimize public outings.
- Get your flu shot-it's not too late.
- Avoid all travel to China and check on other travel you are planning, to minimize your risk.

We are also keeping in close contact with the CDC and Vermont Department of Health for updates and we will update our information on our websites as soon as we can. Visitors from China are being screened as they enter the United States at designated airports. The Department of Health will notify schools if a student will need to be excluded from school. School nurses will be assessing for symptoms and sending students for evaluation by their medical provider as testing has to be coordinated through them. Symptoms are:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Recent travel to affected area

Maintenance has also increased cleansing of surfaces in all of our buildings to reduce the likelihood of the transmission of illnesses. I am also providing links to the CDC website and Vermont Department of Health website that will be providing updates. You can view these frequently and print resources:

<https://www.healthvermont.gov/response/infectious-disease/2019-novel-coronavirus>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

As things change, there will be updates placed on the school websites. I wish we had more control over the spread of this illness, but excellent personal prevention habits and early detection seem to be the most effective strategy. We have guidelines regarding school closings but do not anticipate that will be necessary. At this time this virus is still considered low risk to the general public.

By following these guidelines, we hope to minimize the impact this virus may have on you, our schools and our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Brooke Olsen-Farrell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Brooke" being more prominent and the last name "Olsen-Farrell" written in a more compact, connected style.

Brooke Olsen-Farrell  
Superintendent