

WISCASSET SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

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DR TERRY L. WOOD
Superintendent of Schools
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Dear Parents and Guardians:

We understand that the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is causing concern in our community, country, and the world. While there are no reported cases in the State of Maine, we want to provide you with information as well as inform you of some of the steps we at Wiscasset Schools are taking in the event of a coronavirus outbreak in our community. In the case of a community outbreak, we would follow all recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Department of Education, which could include the close of school. We are currently exploring options to provide some level of daily instruction in the event of a prolonged school closure.

The virus causing COVID-19 causes a respiratory illness ranging from mild cold-like symptoms to severe pneumonia. COVID-19 is believed to spread primarily the same way the common cold or flu spreads - through respiratory droplets that are produced when someone coughs or sneezes. People who are most at risk of becoming infected with COVID-19 are those who have been in close contact (within about 6 feet) with someone who has the disease.

There are simple, preventative actions we can all take to prevent the spread of all respiratory viruses such as:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Washing hands frequently
- Teach children to always cover their coughs and sneeze into their elbow or into a tissue
- Teach children to avoid touching their mouth and nose since that is how germs get into the body
- Keep children home when they are sick
- Stay home with any fever and do not return to school or work until fever free for at least 24 hours

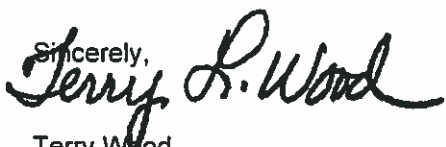
Wiscasset Schools are being vigilant about disinfecting commonly touched surfaces throughout the schools on a daily basis. We are monitoring all updates on the COVID-19 virus from the CDC and the Department of Education to determine other steps we may take to assist in stopping this disease before an outbreak occurs.

At this time, we are asking that people remain home if they are sick, wash hands regularly and consult your medical provider with individual medical concerns.

For more information please review the following resources:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/2019-ncov-factsheet.pdf>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/summary.html>

Sincerely,


Terry Wood
Superintendent of Schools