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## Regional School Unit 57

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*RSU 57 prepares respectful, responsible and creative thinkers for success in the global community.*

March 11, 2020

Dear Parents, Students, Staff and Community Members,

RSU #57 has been carefully monitoring the status of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19). Although at this time there are no confirmed cases in the State of Maine, the Maine Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Maine Department of Education (MDOE) have encouraged all schools to review emergency plans and communicate universal precautions to our communities.

We have been following universal precautions and monitoring influenza and other illnesses for the past several weeks. Custodial staff at all RSU #57 schools are taking additional steps to disinfect all frequently touched areas (desktops, doorknobs, water fountains) on a daily basis.

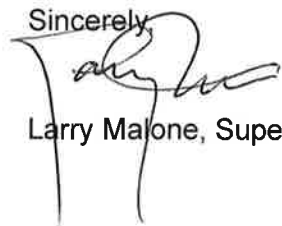
It is also very important to recognize that we see Influenza and other respiratory illnesses at this time every year. The CDC continues to encourage individuals to receive the flu shot. In addition, the following CDC recommendations are essential in reducing the spread of germs:

- Stay home when you are sick. If possible, stay home from work, school, and errands when you are sick. You will help prevent others from catching your illness. Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Cover coughs and sneezes. Use a tissue to cover coughs and sneezes, then dispose of the tissue. When a tissue is not available, cough or sneeze into your elbow.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects. Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at home, work or school, especially when someone is ill.
- Wash hands for 20 seconds. Washing hands often under clean, running water can help prevent the spread of germs. If you cannot wash your hands, use alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60-95% alcohol until soap and water is available.

We have students and staff who have traveled out of state and out of the country recently. We have asked those individuals to self-monitor and follow CDC guidelines if symptoms develop. Going forward, if conditions change the district will act accordingly.

I will continue to provide you updated information as it becomes available. More detailed information regarding the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) can be found at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website at: [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html) . Stay well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Larry Malone', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Larry Malone, Superintendent of Schools