



SLATE VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

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slatevalleyunified.org

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March 11, 2020

Dear Parent or Guardian,

As you know we are monitoring the growing world-wide concern related to COVID-19. We are in close contact with the Vermont Department of Health, CDC and Vermont Agency of Education. We are taking our lead from those partners. Currently, we have zero known cases in our Slate Valley Community. Please know that all of the information provided below will change as additional information and guidance is released.

We have been receiving questions from parents regarding school closure. Please know that we will be consulting with the Vermont Department of Health and Agency of Education should there ever be a need to consider school closure under this scenario.

In addition we are carefully considering the cancellation of field trips as well as other extracurricular activities on a case by case basis. We are canceling or postponing trips based on the areas in which the trips are occurring as well as the financial impacts of cancellation.

Please continue to encourage and instruct prevention habits with your children 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 Level 3 countries as defined by the CDC and check on other travel you are planning, to minimize your risk. Please note that if you do travel to these areas you may be asked to self isolate for 14 days.

We are also keeping in close contact with the CDC and Vermont Department of Health for updates and will update 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 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 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. 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 Farrell', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brooke Farrell