

February 28, 2020

Dear Brewer Staff, Parents, and Guardians:

As coverage of the coronavirus outbreak in China and positive cases in the United States are identified, the Brewer School Department continues to follow best practice when it comes to the daily health of our schools and all staff and students, paying attention to guidance from State and Federal agencies including the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Maine CDC. Please check the links at the bottom of this letter for further information.

As I write this there have been no confirmed cases of coronavirus in Maine. However, we also know that this is a rapidly changing situation, and one we will continue to monitor. Technically labeled as the *novel strain of coronavirus (COVID-19)*, this is a new version of what is a commonly occurring virus, and that can have severe impact on health including respiratory illness with fever, cough, and difficulty breathing. The CDC is still studying how the virus spreads. However, common health practices can help prevent infection, including the following:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds (sing Happy Birthday two times). Using alcohol-based hand sanitizer is also recommended.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you have a fever of over 100 degrees, and do not return to work or school until you have been free of the fever without the use of fever-reducing medication for at least 24 hours.
- Cover your coughs or sneezes when possible and use a tissue then throw it in the trash. If a tissue is not available, cough or sneeze into the inside of your elbow.
- Regularly clean and disinfect touched objects and surfaces such as doorknobs, handles, appliances, and faucets.

Our custodial staff regularly disinfects high touch points such as classroom desks and door handles.

Students or staff who recently traveled outside the United States and who have respiratory symptoms or fever should inform their health care provider. Please let our **school nurses** know if your child is out sick and has had a fever or other flu-like symptoms.

Thank you for your help to keep our students, staff, and our schools healthy.

Sincerely,

Gregg Palmer, Superintendent

[Novel Coronavirus\(2019-nCoV\)](#)

[Maine Center for Disease Control & Prevention](#)

[Maine Department of Education - Coronavirus](#)