

## SLATE VALLEY UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

33 Mechanic Street, Fair Haven, VT 05743 Phone: 802.265.4905 Fax: 802.265.2498 slatevalleyunified.org

Brooke Olsen-Farrell, Superintendent

Kristin H. Benway, Director of Special Services
Casey O'Meara, Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment

Cheryl Scarzello, Director of Finance Christopher G. Cole, Director of Operations

March 12, 2020

Dear Parent or Guardian,

This is a follow-up to my email last night. Our school district's response is changing rapidly as new information becomes available. We will be updating you as we are able. Due to growing concerns and out of an abundance of caution all building use for outside organizations within Slate Valley will be canceled at least through April break. We are still in the process of assessing large schools events such as concerts, etc but you should be prepared that we will most likely be canceling/postponing them. We continue to monitor the situation and update folks as more information becomes available.

We have information on our website pertaining to COVID-19 and will be continually updating that information. As I have previously stated, we are in close contact with the Vermont Department of Health, CDC and Vermont Agency of Education.

As a reminder, 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.

Should you have any questions related to symptoms please call your doctor's office and/or the Vermont Department of Health. 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

Here are the 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

Sincerely,

Brooke Farrell