

Dr. Kevin Dirth
Superintendent

Bill Kimball
Assistant Superintendent

Martha Gagner
Business Manager



Andrea Racek
Special Ed Director

Mona Berry
Curriculum Director

Dr. Melanie Boyle
Early Childhood Programs

Alexis Hoyt
Behavior and Student Support

March 26, 2020

Dear MRUSD Community,

I learned yesterday afternoon that there is a positive COVID-19 case that has occurred within our school community - specifically, an employee of our SATEC community. I have been in contact with the Secretary of Education, Dan French, and officials at the Vermont Department of Health for their guidance. I am told that community spread is happening all over Vermont and our area of the state is not immune. The Health Department has indicated that this case was community acquired and will not be the only one. I realize there will be questions as to the identity of the person or other identifiers. Because of laws around confidentiality, we are not able to do this. Please read the attached FAQ which will better explain the process. The person has been home for over a week and tells us all is well.

Health Department officials asked me to convey to everyone if you or your loved ones are currently experiencing symptoms, please call your primary care provider for guidance. All others in our school community, monitor yourself for symptoms consistent with COVID-19 (fever and cough or shortness of breath). If symptoms arise, call your primary care provider. For more information, visit the Vermont Department of Health website at, <https://www.healthvermont.gov/response/infectious-disease/2019-novel-coronavirus>

The best part of being a resident of this area and Superintendent of Maple Run is being part of a close knit, caring community. Everyone is in this together. We are currently facing a challenge that presents enormous uncertainty and cause for concern. But I know our residents. I continually experience your determination and your heart. Take care of each other while keeping a safe distance. Keep your kids at home. Love them. We will get through this.

Sincerely,

Kevin Dirth
Superintendent of Schools
Maple Run Unified School District

Dr. Kevin Dirth
Superintendent

Bill Kimball
Assistant Superintendent

Martha Gagner
Business Manager



Andrea Racek
Special Ed Director

Mona Berry
Curriculum Director

Dr. Melanie Boyle
Early Childhood Programs

Alexis Hoyt
Behavior and Student Support

When COVID-19 is Confirmed in our Community: Frequently Asked Questions

March 25, 2020

Q: Will the school district inform us about who specifically is infected?

A: We must respect the privacy of those in our community. We cannot and will not be releasing anyone's names or other identifiers.

Q: Will you provide any details about how much interaction an infected person may have had with staff and students?

A: The Department of Health has recently changed its strategy due to increasing community spread. We have been made aware that if any notification is required, it will come directly from the Department of Health, as this would be a public health issue. We advise that if you or your child become symptomatic, or if you have health-related questions, you contact your physician or the Department of Health.

Q: Would the families of children or staff members who were in direct contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case be notified?

A: Any notification would come from the Department of Health. We advise that if you or your child were to become symptomatic, or if you ever have health-related questions, you should contact your physician or the Department of Health.

Q: What type of disinfecting is happening in the schools, even during this closure period?

A: Our custodial team is consistently disinfecting every occupied area daily using disinfectants, safety precautions and procedures directed by the Department of Health. Sign in and out sheets at every school assure that all areas that have been occupied are known by facilities staff every day. Our buildings will be clean and safe when we do reopen.

Q: What can I do for my children?

A: The best thing to do is to keep your children home. Please do not send them out in groups. Please have them practice social distancing (separating yourself from other people by 6 feet) and frequent hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

Q: What can school district staff do?

A: It is imperative that we demonstrate social distancing when we do need to be in school buildings (separating yourself from other people by 6 feet) and frequent hand washing. PLEASE do not enter buildings if you are exhibiting ANY symptoms (fever, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath) OR if you have come in contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19.