

March 9, 2020

INFORMATION RELATED TO COVID-19

This message is an update about coronavirus (COVID-19) and the district's efforts to ensure the health and safety of all students. We are aware of concerns in the community about the spread of this relatively new virus and how this could impact schools. As of today, there is one confirmed case of COVID-19 in Vermont, located in Bennington.

We are working closely with state and local authorities to monitor the situation and to develop a coordinated and comprehensive plan if cases arise in our educational community. The district is closely monitoring this fluid situation, which changes by the day, and providing information as quickly as we can. We are following guidance from the Vermont Department of Health, Rutland Regional Medical Center, the CDC and the Vermont Agency of Education. Updated information will continue to be shared with the community and posted on our RCPS District website: www.rutlandcitypublicschools.org

With regard to cleaning and disinfecting our buildings and school buses, we are increasing our typical protocol to disinfect common contact surfaces more frequently. We are using the same procedure and product that is in place at the Rutland Regional Medical Center.

Additionally, we are reminding students, especially our youngest learners, of proper handwashing steps and how to prevent the spread of illness, including measures below:

- Wash your hands often using soap and water for at least twenty seconds.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash, followed by hand washing.
- Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

These prevention measures will also be our best line of defense, if the time comes that we do see COVID-19 in our community. Additional information about COVID-19 is available on the Vermont Department of Health website and the CDC website. The Health Department is the main health agency for information. Their telephone number is 802-863-7240.