



GREATER NEW BEDFORD REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

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Preparation • Passion • Perseverance

March 2020

Dear Families and Staff,

We understand that many students, families and staff have questions regarding the recent outbreak of the Novel Coronavirus (also known as COVID-19) and how it may impact our local community. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is providing daily updates and recommendations. The most up-to-date information can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>. The DPH has also created a website that is updated constantly with the latest guidance. Please visit: www.mass.gov/2019coronavirus.

While this is a public health concern, the CDC continues to report that the immediate risk to the general public remains low at this time. Yet, in today's connected world, with a large number of district families traveling during school vacation weeks, the potential for infectious disease is always of concern. As with seasonal flu and other contagious illnesses, there are general precautions we can all take to remain as healthy as possible.

- Wash your hands often and thoroughly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, when soap and water are not available, use alcohol-based hand sanitizers.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your coughs or sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve (not with your hands)
- Avoid sharing drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, dishes, towels or other items. Wash these items thoroughly with soap and water after use.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick and stay home when you are sick.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at home, work or school, especially when someone is ill.

If you or your student should develop:

- Fever,
- Cough,
- Difficulty breathing; and

have traveled to China in the past 14 days or suspect that you have been in contact with individuals who have traveled to China (or other high risk areas (see CDC website), please contact your health care provider for advice on appropriate treatment.

For fever of 100.4 or greater, students must remain out of school until fever-free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication.

If you are sick, stay home decreasing incidence of transmission and spread of illness.

The Novel Coronavirus (or COVID-19) is an evolving situation that we are following closely and will continue to update you as information is shared with us. Please be advised that we are monitoring student and staff health concerns. We are in close communication with the local Board of Health, Massachusetts Department of Public Health/School Health Unit, as well as local pediatric health care providers. Our School Facilities Department is vigilantly sanitizing our educational spaces as we typically do during cold and flu season. We are following all recommended guidelines to ensure the safety of our students and staff.

We will remain diligent and provide updates to students and staff as new information becomes available.

Respectfully,

James L. O'Brien
Superintendent-Director