



**DIGHTON-REHOBOTH**  
**Regional School District**  
**2700 Regional Road**  
**North Dighton, MA 02764**  
**(508) 252-5000 (508) 252-5024 (fax)**  
**[www.drregional.org](http://www.drregional.org)**

**Joseph Pirraglia, Jr.**  
Interim Assistant Superintendent

**Kristin Donahue**  
Director of Special Education

**Dr. Anthony C. Azar**  
Superintendent of Schools

**T.E.A.M**  
(Together Everyone Achieves More)

**Paul Kitchen**  
Business Administrator

February 28, 2020

Dear Dighton-Rehoboth Families,

We are reaching out to you to answer questions you may have regarding the Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) originating from Wuhan, China and its impact on our communities. For accurate daily updates and recommendations, please see the Center for Disease Control and Prevention <http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/guidance-hcp.html>.

At this time, The Massachusetts Department of Public Health reports that there has been only one confirmed case of COVID-19 and the risk to our residents remains low. There have been no confirmed cases in neighboring Rhode Island. Concurrently, the risk for influenza (types A and B) has risen to very high.

**Some basic facts about the Coronavirus:**

- This is a respiratory virus.
- People are thought to be most contagious when they are the sickest.
- The virus can be spread from person to person AND from contaminated surfaces.
- The infection spreads via respiratory droplets produced by coughing or sneezing.
- Primary symptoms are fever, cough, and shortness of breath.

**Precautions to help prevent the spread of flu and coronavirus:**

- Wash your hands often and thoroughly, preferably with soap and water.
- Use alcohol based hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Cover your cough/sneeze.
- Avoid sharing cups and utensils, dishes, towels, etc.

*The mission of the Dighton-Rehoboth Regional School District, in partnership with parents and the community, is to provide students with the tools, including technology, to acquire knowledge, apply skills, critically analyze information and issues, and develop social responsibility.*

*Dighton-Rehoboth does not discriminate based on race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, marital status, veteran status, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other legally protected group.*

**Our efforts within the schools to prevent the spread of illnesses:**

- Each school nurse and administration are monitoring illnesses in their respective schools.
- Our School's Facilities Department is diligently sanitizing our educational areas.
- Updated CDC FACT SHEETS are available to the school community from the nurse.
- Hand hygiene is emphasized, and taught in the elementary grades.

It is important to keep children home from school when they are ill. If a child has a fever greater than 100.4, coughing, vomiting, diarrhea, any rash not yet diagnosed by a clinician, or any contagious illness such as chicken pox, strep throat, or flu, they are not able to attend school. Please contact your school nurse if you have any questions about when to keep your child home.

**The Immediate risk of Coronavirus to the general public remains low at this time.** In the unlikely event that a suspect case were to present within the district, a protocol is in place to address the situation. Please rest assured that the Dighton-Rehoboth Public Schools will continue to monitor the evolving situation with illnesses, within the district and the surrounding communities. We will communicate regularly with both local boards of health and the Massachusetts DPH with 24/7 access to a state epidemiologist. Finally, we are following all the recommended guidelines provided, and will update required practices, as the current situation unfolds.

As many of you know, social media has a tendency to spur rumors that scare people. Therefore, as a school district we will provide you with updates periodically from either me or our principals as we navigate through this unfortunate situation. At this time, we will continue to work closely with the appropriate local, state and federal entities and will contact parents directly in the case of any virus-related event. Should you have any questions, please reach out to your school nurse or administration. In the event of school closures we will utilize our one call system to alert you as we have done in weather related closures. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (D.E.S.E), The Massachusetts Association of School Committee's (M.A.S.C), and the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents (M.A.S.S.) will be providing guidance in the event that schools need to be closed for any period of time.

I thank you for your continued support and look forward to seeing you in the community.

Sincerely,  
Anthony C. Azar, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools  
Dighton-Rehoboth Regional School District

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