

MERRIMACK SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Good Morning Merrimack Community-

In letters sent to the community on Monday and on Wednesday of this week concerning COVID-19 I indicated that the district would provide periodic updates about the illness as new information becomes available. Toward that end, I am writing this morning to provide such an update.

Each day since our return to school from February vacation I have been in touch with officials in charge of COVID-19 management in the state of New Hampshire. These conversations have yielded information about the ways that COVID-19 is transmitted, recommendations on prevention, and, of course, information concerning travel advisories and actions to take in response to travelers who have recently visited one of the four countries on the CDC's Level 3 list; Italy, Iran, South Korea and China. As of Wednesday, the Department of Education provided New Hampshire school districts with updated guidance, based on CDC recommendations, concerning travelers to Level 3 countries, and the district complied immediately with that recommendation. As of Wednesday, we were advised to request that all staff members and students of the Merrimack School District who had visited any of the four Level 3 countries within the last two weeks to self-quarantine for a period of fourteen days whether or not they were symptomatic.

As of this morning, I can report the following:

Thorntons Ferry---0 staff and 0 students
Reeds Ferry—0 staff and 0 students
Mastricola Elementary---0 staff and 0 students
Mastricola Upper Elementary—0 staff and 0 students
Merrimack Middle School---0 staff and 0 students
Merrimack High School---1 staff and 0 students

The high school staff member remains symptom free as of this morning.

The Merrimack School District remains in frequent communication with state health experts and acts only, and exclusively, on their recommendations. As their recommendations change, we will respond accordingly and will continue to communicate with the school district community as events warrant. We are grateful for the advice we are receiving from state education and health officials and believe that this on-going partnership will provide the best supports to our students and staff as we manage this situation together.

Thank you.

Mark McLaughlin
Superintendent of Schools