

# Shrewsbury Borough School

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SUPERINTENDENT

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March 3, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians:

As many of you may have learned over the past few days, cases of the Novel Coronavirus, also known as COVID 19, have been identified in the United States after several months of outbreak in other countries. According to the NJ Department of Health, most people have little immediate risk of exposure to this virus and this virus is NOT currently spreading widely in the United States. To date, there are no confirmed cases of COVID 19 in New Jersey although efforts to detect and test suspected cases have been increased to address this public health concern.

The New Jersey Department of Health, the New Jersey Department of Education, Governor Phil Murphy and his staff have issued guidance to schools and communities to help them prepare for a possible outbreak. The outlook for young children is very promising as they appear to be more immune to COVID 19 than older adults or individuals with compromised immune systems and other underlying medical conditions. We also recognize that there are a plethora of other illnesses that schools face during the school year and that not every illness is Novel Coronavirus.

Since COVID 19 is spread from person-to-person contact, the best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to an infected person. Although there is currently no vaccine or specific treatment for coronavirus, the Center for Disease Control recommends a number of everyday preventive measures to prevent the spread of coronavirus, including:

- Avoid close contact with anyone who is sick
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- Stay home when you are sick
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash
- Wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after using the rest room, before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing
- Regularly use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol
- Regularly clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces
- Avoid travelling to, or practice enhanced precautions when travelling to, high risk areas identified by the CDC (see [www.cdc.gov/travel](http://www.cdc.gov/travel) for current travel health notices)

If you feel sick, particularly if you have any early symptoms of a respiratory illness (e.g., fever, cough or shortness of breath), you should:

- Stay home except to seek medical care
- Seek prompt medical attention if your symptoms worsen

- Continue to practice good hygiene:
  - Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash
  - Wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing
  - Regularly use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol
  - Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces regularly
  - Do not travel while sick

Our custodial staff will be implementing additional cleaning and disinfection protocols to ensure that we provide the safest learning environment for all of our students, staff, and community visitors. Our school nurse and staff will work to educate all of our students on the importance of handwashing and other disease prevention measures. We will also ensure that hand sanitizers and other disinfecting wipes are available to all of our classrooms and throughout the school to assist in combating any illness.

Please utilize these resources for more information about COVID 19:

[https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/covid2019\\_community.shtml](https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/covid2019_community.shtml)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

NJDOH COVID 19 Hotline  
**1-800-222-1222**

Trained healthcare professionals are standing by to answer questions about coronavirus. The call is free.

We will continue to monitor this potential public health crisis and will update parents and guardians when we have additional information. We will work closely with our state, county, and local partners to ensure the safety of our students and staff, and to minimize any impact that this may have on our students and school.

Please contact me at any time should you have any questions or concerns, [macconnellb@sbs-nj.org](mailto:macconnellb@sbs-nj.org).

Very sincerely,

*Brent A. MacConnell*

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Superintendent