



# SOUTH KINGSTOWN SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

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## IMPORTANT LINKS

[!\[\]\(003082e50e3009141f59bd5df831749f\_img.jpg\) \*\*SKSD COVID-19 Information Website\*\*](#)

[!\[\]\(17413706fd4997a1a4bdf85c6864eee1\_img.jpg\) \*\*SKSD Main Website COVID-19 NEWS\*\*](#)

March 5, 2020

### **A COVID-19 Update for Our South Kingstown Learning Community (#3)**

In recent days, you have likely heard escalating reports about the Coronavirus (COVID-19) including cases in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. The South Kingstown School Department has stepped up a number of precautions and is monitoring the situation on a daily basis. We are in regular communication with the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) and the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE), and we are receiving guidance from state public health officials on a continual basis. We feel confident in saying that currently there is no immediate risk and no need to change your routine activities, but we should be more vigilant in our everyday precautions. We also recognize that the situation is changing daily, and we want to help you to be ready. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with the facts. You are encouraged to check the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website for the most up-to-date information: [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov). The RIDOH website also provides guidance for Rhode Island: <https://health.ri.gov/diseases/respiratory/?parm=163>

**There are three key areas that we continued to focus on this week:**

1. **Precautions:** We are taking proactive steps to help stop the spread of germs at all of our locations and ask that you take some precautions as well.
  - We have **created a webpage with links to the most current information** from Rhode Island, the CDC and the World Health Organization at [https://www.skschools.net/departments/health\\_services/covid-19\\_information](https://www.skschools.net/departments/health_services/covid-19_information)
  - Our facilities department is continuing to take every precaution including making sure that hand sanitizer dispensers are filled and classrooms and public areas around the district are being disinfected and cleaned well at all locations. Additional cleaning resources have been made available to our staff. We are also ensuring that all high touch areas are routinely cleaned. Please note that our buses are part of our deep cleaning areas.



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- Hand sanitizer has also been placed at the main entrances / main offices in each building. All visitors and those that enter and exit throughout the day are encouraged to use it as they enter the building.



## Please follow these simple steps to help prevent the spread of all germs:

- **Wash your hands OFTEN throughout the day.** Use warm water and soap. If soap and water are not available, use alcohol-based hand gel. **Encourage your teachers and students to wash throughout the day.**
- **Cough or sneeze into your elbow.** Flu is spread through coughing or sneezing on other people or into your hands. Cover your coughs and sneezes to prevent others from getting sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids, and eat nutritious foods.
- Keep surfaces (especially bedside tables, surfaces in the bathroom, and toys for children) clean by wiping them down with a household disinfectant.
- Get your flu shot, and make sure the people around you do the same.
- If someone has any type of respiratory illness, etc. then they should STAY HOME and call their primary care provider.
- People who think they have COVID-19 should call their healthcare provider. These people should not go directly to a healthcare facility without first calling a healthcare provider (unless they are experiencing a medical emergency).
- Be vigilant and stay informed

2. **Reporting:** We have received direction on how to report and respond if we suspect a member of our learning community is affected. We are reviewing the steps we have in place for handling a specific case of Coronavirus and how we will respond if there are cases in our region. These are similar to protocols we currently have in place for all infectious diseases.

- We do have scheduled athletic events with Saint Raphael Academy. We will use guidance from the RIDOH when we determine if we will play. Please know that RIDOH has done extensive tracings and monitoring of those that attended the trip that is connected with Saint Raphael Academy.
- We remind everyone to review the [current travel advisories](#)
- **People with general questions about COVID-19 can visit [www.health.ri.gov/covid](http://www.health.ri.gov/covid), write to [RIDOH.COVID19Questions@health.ri.gov](mailto:RIDOH.COVID19Questions@health.ri.gov), or call 401-222-8022.** This is the COVID-19 Hotline that RIDOH has available to the public.



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3. **Operations:** We are looking at our day-to-day operations and contingency plans in the unlikely event that learning at all or some of the schools is not possible for an extended time period.
- We continue to work on contingency plans in the event the district needs to close or alter how we educate and provide services to our students. For example, we will need to consider alternatives to traditional classroom learning resources and how we can provide guidance to our learning community.
  - As of today, RIDOH is NOT suggesting that we need to stop our large group events, like sporting events. They share that we can continue these events but need to still be very proactive with our hand washing, handshaking, etc. We need to follow the same precautions.
  - Superintendents have a weekly call with RIDOH and RIDE on Wednesday evenings. **Unless there is a local and specific reason to do otherwise, I will provide an update after that weekly call. Our website (under NEWS on the main page) will continue to be the primary location to view information from the district.**

Thank you for all of your support. As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to us if we can be of any help.

Sincerely,

Linda F. Savastano  
Superintendent of Schools