



Brookfield Public Schools

"Create Your Tomorrow"



February 27, 2020

Dear Brookfield Families,

I write to you with a follow up from my February 5, 2020 letter regarding cold and flu season, to reassure you regarding district responsiveness and the volume of information being disseminated about the coronavirus, and precautions we all should employ.

The District will take all rational precautions to ensure the safety and wellbeing of students and staff.

The District remains updated regarding flu/winter colds and the coronavirus, including consultation with Dr. Cornelius Ferreira, our consulting physician, and the Brookfield Health Department Director, Dr. Raymond Sullivan. From communication with Dr. Sullivan this morning, "There is absolutely NO reason to be concerned about local disease at this time and the worst thing we can do is to start a panic."

We ask that parents continue to inform the school nurse should their child be diagnosed with flu, strep or any other illness. It is important for both children and adults who are ill to refrain from exposing others to illness.

Therefore, it is imperative, as outlined in the CDC "Flu Guide for parents" to "keep your child home from school, day care, or camp for at least 24 hours after their fever is gone. (The fever should be gone without the use of a fever-reducing medicine.) A fever is defined as 100°F (37.8°C)* or higher (<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/pdf/freeresources/family/flu-guide-for-parents-2018.pdf>).

Some precautions for maintaining good health during the "flu season" are available on the Connecticut State Department of Health website and include such common sense strategies as:

- The first and most important step in preventing flu is to get a flu vaccine each year!
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue (be sure to throw away any used tissues)
- Cough or sneeze into your elbow
- **Wash your hands often** <https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Immunizations/Seasonal-Influenza>

You can expect updates from the Superintendent's office or your child's school principal in the coming weeks should trends develop or other pertinent information need to be communicated to you.

If you have any questions, please contact your child's school health office.

Sincerely,

Dr. John W. Barile
Superintendent