



SALEM SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Joseph Onofrio II
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Dear Parents and Guardians,

The Town of Salem and the Salem School District continue to monitor the coronavirus (COVID-19) that was first detected in Wuhan City, China. As you are probably aware, various media sources report that numbers are growing in various international locations and in the United States.

At this moment, there are no known cases of infection in Connecticut but we will continue to monitor this. We are working closely with the Uncas Health District and our Medical Advisor, Dr. Vijay Sikand. Uncas Health District is participating in weekly Center for Disease Control and CT Department of Public Health conference calls. Additionally, School Superintendents are receiving frequent updates from the State Department of Education and other State agencies.

Today, First Selectman Kevin Lyden and I participated in a comprehensive COVID-19 Meeting sponsored by the Uncas Health District. Various presenters included spokespersons from Hartford HealthCare, American Ambulance, and Patrick McCormick, Director of Health at Uncas Health District.

The Center for Disease Control continues to emphasize that *illness prevention is the first line of defense*. The following are recommended measures that can lower the risk of any illness, including COVID-19:

- Frequent and thorough handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use of an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol is recommended.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing.
- Clean frequently-touched objects and surfaces with a disinfectant product.
- Avoid sharing of drinking cups, food and other personal items.
- Stay at home if you feel ill to minimize the transmission of illness and disease.
- It is important that you communicate with your child's teacher if they are out with an illness.

Ensuring the safety of our students, staff and families is our priority. I will continue to keep you updated as I receive new information to share.

For more information regarding COVID-19, please visit the following links:

- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- <https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Public-Health-Preparedness/Main-Page/2019-Novel-Coronavirus>

Feel free to contact me or our School Nurse, Maggie Clouet, with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Joseph Onofrio II
Superintendent
Salem School District

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Salem School District's Mission Statement

"Salem inspires learning, creativity, critical thinking, personal integrity, and citizenship."