**Richmond Consolidated School**

1831 State Road

Richmond, MA 01254-5100

(413) 698-2207

(413) 698-3199 *facsimile*

*Jill Pompi, Principal*

March 10, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As you are likely aware, COVID-19 is now present in Berkshire County. Please know we have been participating in conference calls as they are scheduled with officials from the Massachusetts Department of Health and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for continuing guidance and collaboration. Currently, the DESE and Governor Baker are asking all school districts in the Commonwealth to cancel any overseas trips.

Yesterday, we had a planning meeting at school that consisted of the Richmond Board of Health, the Town Nurse, State Police, the Fire Chief, and our School Physician where we discussed openly the preventative measures that have been ongoing at school. They were very pleased with interventions in place and communicated to us we are doing everything in our realm to help ensure a safe and healthy environment for the students and staff.

In addition to the preventative measures we have previously communicated, we have set up numerous hand sanitizing stations throughout the building. We ask prior to arrival into the building, if you would kindly use the sanitizer. We also have been answering student concerns in a caring and compassionate way individually as well in the CARES and Health Classes. As a reminder there is no need for students to stay home from school or for anyone to wear masks at school. Families can take steps to prevent many viral illnesses by:

* Getting a Flu Shot if you have not already done so.
* Reminding children to continue good hand washing practices at home and at school. This is the single most effective way for all of us to stay healthy.
* Teaching children to cover coughs and sneezes with their elbow, and avoid touching the eyes, nose, or mouth to lessen the spread of infection.
* Washing hands or using hand sanitizer after being out in public places.
* Staying home from work or school if you have symptoms of a viral illness, such as a fever above 100.4 degrees, cough, runny nose, chills, or body aches.
* Remaining home after an illness develops until you have been symptom free and fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of Tylenol or Ibuprofen/Motrin.

Please don’t hesitate to contact the health office with any questions or concerns you may have. We realize the news media reports are worrisome but we want to reassure you that there is no public threat for Richmond Consolidated School at this time. We will continue to monitor this health concern and will keep you updated should the situation develop or new pertinent information is made available.

Sincerely,

Jill Pompi

Principal

For more information please visit:

<https://www.mass.gov/guides/information-on-the-outbreak-of-2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19>

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html

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