

Keeping Our Students and Ourselves Safe

How the Brooklin School, Union 76, and surrounding towns are preparing for the arrival of the Coronavirus



We are aware.

“Understandably, the Coronavirus, known as COVID-19, continues to cause much anxiety in our communities, state, country and world. This is an ever-changing situation. Please know we are keeping up-to-date, on a daily basis.”

What we know...

- The virus causing COVID-19 is a new coronavirus that has not been previously identified and causes a respiratory illness ranging from a mild cold-like illness to severe pneumonia.

COVID-19 is believed to spread primarily the same way the common cold or flu spreads-through respiratory droplets that are produced when someone coughs or sneezes. People who are most at risk of becoming infected with COVID-19 are those who have been in close contact (less than 6 feet) with someone who has the disease. People are thought to be most contagious when they are most symptomatic (the sickest). Some spread of the virus might be possible before a person has symptoms, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads.

We are following guidelines.

“The chances are that cases will start to be detected in Maine and so we continue to make preparations for the inevitable. Our preparations are based on using resources shared and found on the CDC’s Web Site or have been sent to us by state or national organizations we are affiliated with.”

<https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/epi/airborne/coronavirus.shtml>

We are disinfecting.

“This week we have started a new level of disinfecting and prevention in our schools. Extra disinfecting during the school day in all common areas includes hallways, bathrooms, water fountains etc. Extra cleaning products have been purchased with all schools having product on-hand to start this next level of prevention. We have also ordered more cleaning and disinfecting products, much of which is on back-order with demand being high around the country.”

We have a Health Team

“As part of our Health Team we are fortunate to have two fine school nurses in Michelle Sadler-Gove who works in Deer Isle-Stonington and Jenna Billings who works with our schools in Sedgwick and Brooklin. They are keeping in contact with state health officials and they along with SU 76 Administration are keeping up-to-date with any new developments. If you would like to reach out to one of them please contact them at Michele Sadler-Gove msadler-gove@dises.org and Jenna Billings jbillings@sedgwicksschool.org”

We are planning for learning from home

“With the virus spreading the possibility of closing schools for extra cleaning or for longer periods of time as other school systems around the country have done certainly becomes more real. In order to find staff extra time to plan for this possibility students will go home early today so that teachers and staff can begin to put together meaningful work for students should there be cancellations.”

“Because most people so far with COVID-19, have the mild form of the disease, the likelihood that we will be closing schools is low, but not zero. In the unlikely chance that a decision to close school due to a COVID-19 outbreak is made, it is important for you to have a plan for who could take care of your child.”

We are all in this together

“Keep children home when they are sick. Students (along with parents/guardians) who are ill, especially with acute respiratory symptoms (not allergies or chronic conditions), should stay home. Review with your children as we are to always cover their cough and sneezes with a tissue or elbow. Please remind them as we are doing to wash their hands with soap and water (or use hand sanitizer) after they touch their face. Wash their hands before they eat. Tell children to avoid touching their mouth and nose since that is how germs get into the body.”