



School Administrative Unit 21

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sau21.org

March 8, 2020

Dear SAU 21 Families and Employees:

I am writing to provide you with an update relative to the outbreak of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the impact that the current situation is having on our schools and communities. We are continuing to actively monitor the situation and are appreciative of the updates that we are receiving from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), the New Hampshire Department of Education (NHDOE), and other SAUs in our region and throughout the state.

Following are some important updates:

- The school exclusion and self-quarantine for Winnacunnet High School students and staff who participated in the recent Italy trip will conclude at the end of the day on Friday, March 13, 2020, and these students and staff are scheduled to return to school on Monday, March 16, 2020.
- We are reviewing all out-of-state and international trips currently scheduled for the remainder of the school year. You should expect that we will act with an abundance of caution in considering whether these trips will go forward. DHHS is expected to provide guidance relative to upcoming school trips in the next few days.
- While we know that DHHS has reported that there is a case of COVID-19 in Rockingham County, my understanding is that, as of today, there are no cases of the virus in SAU 21 communities. We will provide you with any updates from DHHS relative to active cases in our area when we receive them.
- If you have any questions about the COVID-19 outbreak, please contact the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) - Division of Public Health Services at 603.271.4496. Additional materials can be found at the CDC website (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>) or the DHHS website (<https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/2019-ncov.htm>).

I appreciate the great work of our teachers, administrators and support staff and their flexibility and student-centered approach to accommodating the needs of all of our students, particularly during this ongoing situation. In addition, I have great empathy for the students, families and staff who have had their lives upended by the exclusion. We will continue to work with them to make certain that their school-based needs are met.

We remain committed to student and staff safety and wellness as our priority in all SAU 21 schools.

Sincerely,

William H. Lupini, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

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Superintendent of Schools

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