



P.O. Box 70
85 Pine Street
Andover, ME 04216
(207) 392-4381
FAX: 392-1500

Susan L. Pratt,
Superintendent of Schools
spratt@andoverschoolmaine.org
(207) 392-4381

ANDOVER SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

March 11, 2020

Dear Parent/ Guardian:

We at Andover Elementary School understand that many folks are concerned about the various flu and virus' currently impacting folks around the communities, state, and countries around the world. In order to help ease any anxiety you may have and to let you know information we use for guidance, I wanted to write this letter to explain our plans and to give you resources.

What we know:

- The flu has been very prevalent around the country and has impacted families in many ways. Those most impacted are the elderly and those with other medical conditions.
- Those with flu like systems should consult with their doctors as soon as suspected to gain any options for medication to help support healing.
- The Covid-19 virus also is most impactful with the same population as the flu. However, unlike the flu, there is no vaccine or direct treatment available.
- There are currently no confirmed cases of Covid-19 in our state. The virus is in other states in New England. It spreads much like the flu virus through respiratory droplets from someone's sneeze or cough.

What you can do to help:

- Keep children home when they are sick; flu or other virus'. Notify the school of child's symptoms.
- Teach your child to cover their cough and sneeze into a tissue or elbow.
- Remind children to wash hands with soap or water (20 seconds) after they touch their face or use the restroom. Always wash before eating.
- Tell your child to avoid touching surfaces and objects. Also, to not touch their mouth or nose since this is how germs spread.

- Enhance cleaning of high touch areas of your home- door knobs, toilet handles, and sink handles.

What the school can do:

- Plan for when or if a community spread occurs.
- Develop a communication tool to communicate with parents and the community.
- Encourage families to have a plan in place for longer term stay at home events.
- Focus students on using good hygiene and hand washing. If not available, to use hand sanitizer to clean hands.
- Provide the more rigorous sanitizing of surfaces within the school. Separate desks as much as possible and send ill children home.

Andover School Department will use both calling and facebook to communicate in the event that either the flu or Covid 19 spreads into Maine. We are continually gaining updates from DOE and CDC.

Here are some links for additional information:

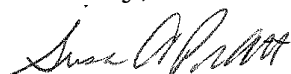
www.maine.gov/doe/covid_19

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

<https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/epi/influenza/maineflu/index.shtml>

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/prevent/actions-prevent-flu.htm>

Sincerely,



Susan A. Pratt
Superintendent/Principal