October 19, 2020

Dear Region One Families and Staff:

Today we received notification that a middle school teacher at Sharon Center School has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19). Due to consistent mask wearing, social distancing, and other precautions in place, the likelihood of the spread of Covid-19 from this person is low. In consultation with the Sharon Health Department, the Region One Medical Advisor, and according to CDC guidance, Sharon Center School middle school (grades 5-8), will be closed beginning today through Thursday October 29th so that impacted students and staff can appropriately quarantine. In person classes will resume on Friday, October 30th. Sharon Center School middle school students will begin distance learning on Wednesday October 21st.

The Sharon Center School middle school teacher is an individual who has had significant contact with middle school students, but limited contact with other middle school staff, and no contact with elementary school students and staff. All significant contacts of the Covid-19 positive person have been notified and instructed to quarantine for 14 days. Principal Dr. Manning has been identified as a direct contact with the affected individual and will also be in quarantine for fourteen days working remotely. Plans for the opening of Sharon Center School, grades K - 4 will be determined by the end of business tomorrow after full cleaning, preparation for remote learning, and a full assessment of the situation are completed.

As many of you may know, the number of new cases of Covid-19 nationally and particularly in Litchfield County have risen significantly in the last 1-2 weeks. As a reminder, COVID-19 is spread mainly via person-to-person contact through contaminated air droplets from coughing and sneezing by an infected person. We urge everyone to continue to follow preventive measures with your children and family members:

- Wash your hands frequently, but especially after using the restroom and before preparing or consuming food. Using soap and hot water, wash for about 20 seconds. Be sure to also wash your fingertips. When soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer.
- Avoid coughing or sneezing into your hands or in the air. Always try to cough or sneeze into a tissue, then throw the tissue away. If you don’t have a tissue, cough/sneeze inside the elbow of your arm.
- As much as you can, avoid touching your eyes, mouth, and nose.
- Wear a face covering (mask) whenever there is a likelihood that you or your family members will be in the presence of others.
- Maintain social distancing (at least 6 feet) between yourself and others when outside of your home.
Below is the list of COVID-19 symptoms for which everyone should monitor in their family members:

- Fever (100.4°F Fahrenheit or higher)
- Chills or shaking chills
- Uncontrolled new cough (not due to other known cause, such as chronic cough)
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- New loss of taste or smell
- Congestion and cold-like symptoms

For additional information on COVID-19 symptoms, please see:


Staff and students exhibiting any of the above symptoms, or feeling ill, should remain home and call their medical provider to report their symptoms and ask about testing prior to seeking in-person care at a clinic, physician’s office, or hospital.

We thank you all for continuing to be vigilant about daily screening, for following the safety guidelines and for communicating any concerns as they arise. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Lisa B. Carter
Interim Superintendent