

ORLEANS CENTRAL SUPERVISORY UNION

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March 2, 2020

Dear Orleans Central Community,

Several of you have expressed concerns about the outbreak of the COVID-19 respiratory illness. We get regular updates from the Vermont Agency of Education about this and will provide updates to you as necessary.

The Vermont Department of Health is closely monitoring the rapid development of COVID-19 that is caused by a new coronavirus. Vermont is prepared to respond to protect and support Vermonters.

There are no cases of people with COVID-19 in Vermont as of February 28, 2020. Should the situation in Vermont change, the Vermont Department of Health and the Agency of Education will coordinate to alert every school district/supervisory union and its schools about specific preparedness and response guidelines to follow. For complete current guidance, please review [Memo: COVID-19 Guidance for Vermont Schools](#).

It is important to note that at this point, Vermont residents are much more likely to become sick with a cold or the flu than to be exposed to COVID-19. [Many of the precautions that help prevent other respiratory diseases, like colds and the flu, can also help keep an illness like COVID-19 from spreading:](#)

- Frequent hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with your sleeve or a tissue. Throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

The Vermont Department of Health and the Vermont Agency of Education will contact us as the situation develops with any guidance or directives that will affect our schools. Please be aware that the Vermont Department of Health is leading the response to COVID-19. The Vermont Agency of Education will be assisting with disseminating information and guidance specific to schools.

If you have concerns about COVID-19, please review the [Vermont Department of Health's COVID-19 website](#) or dial 2-1-1 for more information. As always, parents are encouraged to keep their children home when they are sick.

We know that there have been media reports on the prospect of widespread school closures in the United States. At this time, those measures are not necessary in Vermont. The Vermont Agency

of Education is working with the Department of Health on guidance in the event that this changes.

We will provide you updates with further information as it becomes available. We understand that managing uncertainty is challenging, and we thank you for working with us to respond promptly and appropriately to a continually evolving situation.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Beverly Davis".

Beverly Davis, OCSU Superintendent