



# Colchester School District

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March 9, 2020

Dear Colchester School Community,

We are sharing an update on COVID-19 (coronavirus) as VT has its first presumptive case of the virus in Bennington County. In addition, both elementary schools in Williston are closed today out of an abundance of caution following information from a staff member who is experiencing cold symptoms after staying at an out-of-state hotel where there have been confirmed cases of COVID-19. As a preventative measure, they are fully and completely disinfecting those buildings as they wait for further direction from the Vermont Department of Health. At this time, there is no indication from the Vermont Department of Health that our district is affected by the concern in Williston. If this changes, I will communicate this to our school community.

We are continuing to follow preventative and response guidelines offered by the Vermont Department of Health and Vermont Agency of Education. Our district's leadership team, which has representation from all five schools, is continuing to monitor the evolving landscape created by COVID-19, both locally and nationally. As we look ahead to how concerns may impact the rest of the school year, we are in regular communication with leaders from other districts and state officials. With these situations changing rapidly, we will continue to solicit information and make subsequent decisions in the best interest of our students and employees.

We encourage you to visit the [district's COVID-19 website](http://www.csdvt.org/district/about/covid.php). It houses important links containing information from the Center for Disease Control and the Vermont Department of Health, including the current status of COVID-19 in Vermont.

[www.csdvt.org/district/about/covid.php](http://www.csdvt.org/district/about/covid.php)

The following simple actions can support in reducing the spread of COVID-19:

- Wash your hands frequently 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.

Please do not hesitate to contact your school administrator or nurse if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Amy Minor

Superintendent of Schools

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**Amy Minor**  
Superintendent  
of Schools

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**Carrie Lutz**  
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**Gwendolyn Carmolli**  
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