

The 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is a new virus identified as the cause of a respiratory illness outbreak in people. Symptoms can range from mild to severe. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is closely monitoring this outbreak to learn as much as possible about this new virus and prevent person-to-person spread in the United States. Guidance may change as new information becomes available. Your school can stay up to date on the latest information from CDC by visiting healthvermont.gov/COVID-19.

Prepare to accommodate returning students and staff from affected areas.

Find the list of affected areas at healthvermont.gov/COVID-19. Instruct students and staff to notify the school if they have travelled to an affected area in the last 14 days. **If a student or staff member will be returning from an affected area or has returned from an affected area in the last 14 days, call the Health Department at 802-863-7240, whether or not the individual has symptoms.** The Health Department will be in regular contact with the student or staff for 14 days since the day they left the affected area to monitor them for symptoms of shortness of breath, cough or fever.

Using CDC guidance, the Health Department will identify the risk level for each person who has traveled, and work with you to determine next steps. In the most restrictive cases, schools will need to identify a private room with a bathroom that is not shared with others, and coordinate meals for individuals.

Review education on respiratory hygiene.

Provide education about hygiene practices to help prevent disease:

- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue or into your sleeve, not your hands.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Wash your hands with soap and water often and for at least 20 seconds each time, especially after coughing or sneezing. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer, if soap and water aren't available.
- Stay home if you're sick, especially with a fever.
- Avoid people who are sick.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects.

Perform routine cleaning and disinfecting.

- Provide adequate supplies to students and staff, including clean and functional handwashing stations, soap, paper towels, and alcohol-based hand sanitizers.
- Special sanitizing processes beyond routine cleaning are not necessary or recommended. Perform routine cleaning and disinfecting on surfaces and objects that are frequently touched, like door knobs, phone, desks, and countertops.

Questions?

If you have questions about COVID-19 that are unrelated to travelers returning from affected areas, visit healthvermont.gov/COVID-19 or call 2-1-1. Otherwise, call the Health Department at 802-863-7240.