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Dear CTECS families,

You are most likely aware of the current public health situation related to the novel strain of coronavirus (COVID-19) that originated in Wuhan, China. To date, there are no reported cases in the state of Connecticut.

However, the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System (CTECS) continues to closely monitor updates from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the federal government, and we are working in collaboration with our local and state departments of public health regarding coronavirus.

Please note that CTECS will refer to the federal government's travel advisories when making decisions concerning upcoming field trips.

The CDC considers the immediate health risk to the general population from the virus to be low at this time, however, CTECS recommends following the CDC guidelines below to prevent any infection of a respiratory virus and ensure the well-being of our school communities:

- Stay home when you are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Cough and sneeze into your elbow or a tissue. Follow up by washing/sanitizing hands.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces or objects.
- Wash hands for 20 seconds. Hand washing is the single most important means of preventing the spread of infection.
- If soap and water are not available for hand washing, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

If you or a family member are exhibiting flu-like symptoms, such as fever, cough, congestion, and shortness of breath, please contact a healthcare provider or go to the nearest walk-in center/clinic.

For the most current information on the coronavirus, stay in contact with your local health department, visit the [Center for Disease Control and Prevention's](https://www.cdc.gov) (CDC) website for the most updated guidance related to planning, preparedness, travel advisories, etc. as well as the [Connecticut Department of Public Health's](https://www.ct.gov/dph) (DPH) website for Connecticut-specific information.

We will continue to communicate with you about our ongoing efforts regarding the coronavirus. Thank you for your continued support in keeping our students and staff safe.

Sincerely,
Jeffrey Wihbey
Superintendent of Schools