



March 3, 2020

This morning we convened a meeting to discuss Easton's planning for the potential of a case of coronavirus (COVID-19) being diagnosed in Connecticut. The meeting was led by Captain Doyle who is our Emergency Management Director; Chiefs of Fire, Police and EMS, school officials and the Weston Westport Health District Director of Emergency Management and Homeland Security among others from the town were in attendance. We discussed preparedness by our first responders and options for the schools.

I am confident that we are ready to deal with the potential appearance of the virus in town and we will continue to meet regularly. The schools and Senior Center are already taking extra precautions in terms of cleaning facilities. We discussed future steps as well.

All agreed that we, as citizens, would still have the greatest impact. What follows is an excerpt from the Superintendent of Schools letter to parents:

HOW CAN I PROTECT MYSELF?

There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19 infection. Person-to-person spread of the virus is thought to occur mainly via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Much is still unknown about how the virus spreads. Take these everyday preventative actions to help stop the spread of germs.

- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use 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 a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces."

What are the schools doing? ---- Most Important: Remain Calm

1. Our Administrators are monitoring attendance of students and staff.
2. We encourage families who have sick children to keep them home.
3. I have directed teachers and staff who have symptoms of a cold or the flu to take sick days.
4. We have directed our custodians to ensure common areas receive special care.
5. You might see additional hand sanitizers in our lobbies and offices.
6. We will monitor the situation, but for now we are not restricting or canceling our athletics competitions at Joel Barlow High School or the venues to which our teams travel.
7. We will monitor the situation in terms of potential impact to field trips that are out-of-district or overnight.
8. Our nursing staff will regularly update our administrators as to the nature of illnesses they are seeing in the children.

The Town of Easton will continue to respond as the situation warrants and keep the public updated as well.

Best, Dave Bindelglass