



October 9, 2019

Dear HVWS Families,

Life feels a little more “normal” now that we have been back at school for a month. However, with the current rising trends in COVID-19 infection in Connecticut, we must take a moment to emphasize that now is a time when we must all remain vigilant in our precautions. Contact tracing in CT schools where COVID-19 cases have been identified has shown that transmission does not seem to be occurring within schools, but rather through events in the community. This is encouraging because it indicates that the multiple layers of mitigation strategies that schools have implemented are, so far, working. We all have a part to play in keeping each other healthy and our classes on campus. In school, we need to continue working to follow the guidelines we already have in place. Outside of school, we all need to continue making thoughtful decisions regarding our family’s health and social activities.

As we move into flu season, the Daily Attestation of Health (attached) remains critical. In any year it is important for sick children to remain home because home is the best place for rest and recovery. This year, remaining home during an illness—any illness—is even more important. Why?

- COVID-19 has a distinct set of symptoms, but it may manifest in other symptoms.
- When an individual is sick with one illness, that individual can be more vulnerable to other illnesses.
- Teachers are spending a lot of extra time on hygiene and hand washing this year. Cold symptoms in the classroom add an unnecessary complication to the managing of classroom hygiene and to mask-wearing.
- Any time a person is sick today, there is a concern it could be COVID-19. Not only do we want to limit undue worry, we want to limit extra visits to doctors’ offices and burdens on coronavirus testing facilities. For these reasons especially, the CT Department of Public Health is strongly urging everyone to get an influenza immunization this year.

So far this year, all our families have been doing an excellent job of erring on the side of caution in the realm of student and teacher health and we thank you for this.

As you may be aware, the CDC and the State of Connecticut have advised against traditional Halloween activities such as door-to-door trick-or-treating. Please take these recommendations to heart. Additionally, with holidays on the horizon that often involve travel, please keep abreast of Connecticut’s travel advisories: <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/travel>.

We are thankful for every day we are together on campus and thank all of you for the part you are playing in making this possible.

In health,

The HVWS COVID-19 Task Force