

# WINDHAM SOUTHWEST SUPERVISORY UNION

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*Stamford*

*Searsburg*

*Southern Valley Unified Union SD*

*Twin Valley Unified Union SD*

March 9, 2020

Dear Windham Southwest Supervisory Union (WSWSU) Families,

I am writing to assure you that all Windham Southwest Supervisory Union (WSWSU) school districts understand and share in the concerns about COVID-19 (coronavirus). We are in active communication with the Vermont Department of Health and the Agency of Education, and WSWSU has set up a Task Force of administrators, nurses and the central office team to plan around COVID-19 in our region.

Stamford, Southern Valley at Halifax, Southern Valley at Readsboro and Twin Valley Schools **closed today, Monday, March 9** out of an abundance of caution for possible exposures to COVID-19 (also known as coronavirus). We have taken the day to gather information, to clean and disinfect our facilities and buses, and to determine ways we can limit risk of exposure for our students, families and staff.

Stamford, Southern Valley at Halifax, Southern Valley at Readsboro and Twin Valley Schools are all on a **two-hour delay schedule for students tomorrow, Tuesday, March 10**. Before students arrive tomorrow, **all teachers and staff will meet at our schools 8:15am on Tuesday, March 10**, in order to share information, new expectations for sanitation, and building procedures for limiting potential exposure. We will also communicate this using our emergency calling system.

Windham Southwest Supervisory Union received word on Sunday, March 8, that there was some level of exposure of students and families in our communities to individuals who are *presumptive positive* for COVID-19. Patients are labeled as *presumptive positive* if they have "at least one respiratory specimen that tested positive for the virus that causes COVID-19 at a state or local laboratory," according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The Vermont Department of Health is in communication with these individuals to advise them.

There are some things that you can do to help. We kindly ask that you follow all CDC recommendations, including washing or sanitizing hands upon entry to our schools, before meals and after using restrooms, and not attending our schools or school functions, if you or your children are feeling sick.

The Vermont Department of Health (Health Department) continues to lead the State of Vermont's response to COVID-19. For the most up-to-date information and Vermont's response, please consult their [COVID-19 website](https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19).

Advice from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is to continue common disease prevention measures as the best way to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Many of the precautions that help prevent other respiratory diseases, like colds and the flu, can also help keep an illness like COVID-19 from spreading. This [poster from the CDC](#) contains the most important points:

- 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.

We will continue to monitor this rapidly evolving situation and provide additional communication as we receive more information and guidance from the Vermont Department of Health.

Keeping everyone as safe as possible is our priority. We recognize that school closures can be a hardship to families. Windham Southwest Supervisory Union will continue to work closely with the Vermont Department of Health and Vermont Agency of Education to determine the most appropriate next steps. Upon their guidance, we will update you.

Thank you,

*Barbara Anne*

Barbara Anne Komons-Montroll  
Superintendent Windham Southwest SU