TO: MSAD 08 Community  
From: Tonya Arnold, Superintendent  

Dear Families,

Safety and health of our students and the community are of utmost importance to us.

We are monitoring notices closely and meeting weekly with local town and emergency officials. The US and all other countries are now considered level 2 for sustained spread on the CDC website. The new information that applies now is as follows:

- Travelers should monitor their health and limit interactions with others for 14 days after returning from travel.
  - Given this, students should stay home with excused absences when returning from travel out of state or out of the country until it is clear that no symptoms exist.

- Travelers that are sick with fever, cough, or have trouble breathing should stay home and call ahead before seeking medical care.

The newest information from Governor Mills' press conference today states there is 1 presumptive (not yet confirmed) case of COVID19 in Maine.

We will follow the Governor's recommendation of canceling any non-essential gathering of 250 people or more, and not allow community use of our facilities for these types of public gatherings until further notice. Our school population with all staff is less than this number.

- Cancellation of non-essential travel plans to other states and countries are recommended. If a family chooses to travel anyway, they must follow the self-quarantine recommendation for two weeks.

The Governor reports that there is no plan to close schools at this time.

Teaching teams are planning to review the guidance below and figure out in what ways we can plan to follow these recommendations.

Currently, we are operating in column 1 (None to Minimal community transmission).
We do have cases of Flu B in our community, but this is not as concerning as COVID19. While we should practice the same hygiene and increased cleaning practices to help avoid the spread of Flu B as well, the preventive quarantine is not necessary for the flu. However, sick or symptomatic students and staff should stay home to rest and recover.

Please be sure to call us to report reasons that your child may be absent. Amanda will need to collect information about whether the absence is for a preventive quarantine following travel or if your child is sick. If sick, we need to record which symptoms are present.
Here is a link to the CDC with tips of ways to help promote frequent and thorough hand washing and cleaning with children.

https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/handwashing-family.html

I will plan to send an update weekly, and more frequently if necessary.

Keep calm, and stay kind and clean.