



Southbridge Public Schools

25 Cole Avenue, Southbridge MA 01550

Telephone: (508) 764-5414

Jeffrey A. Villar, Ph.D.
Receiver / Superintendent

Date: March 9, 2020

Southbridge Public Schools Remains Vigilant in Monitoring Coronavirus Risk

A recent outbreak of Covid-19, or the coronavirus, has caused concern worldwide after being initially discovered in Wuhan city, Hubei province, China. Southbridge Public Schools has been in contact with public health agencies, including the Southbridge Board of Health, to manage any risk related to this outbreak. The district remains vigilant in monitoring any local risk and is prepared to act in collaboration with the Department of Public Health as needed if any relevant new information emerges.

It is important to note that currently, the overall risk to residents of Massachusetts remains low, although the risk for the more common influenza (flu) virus remains high.

The spread of this outbreak is being monitored by multiple agencies. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) is working closely with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), other Federal agencies, local boards of health, and clinical partners to share the most updated information as it occurs.

Residents of Southbridge should continue to take measures to prevent colds and the flu, which may also provide protection from Covid-19, such as:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- If unable to wash your hands, use hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Cover your coughs or sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve (not with your hands)
- Stay away from people who are sick and stay home when you are sick.

As stated above, the risk of influenza is much higher than the risk of Covid-19 for Massachusetts residents at this time.



Southbridge Public Schools

25 Cole Avenue, Southbridge MA 01550

Telephone: (508) 764-5414

Jeffrey A. Villar, Ph.D.
Receiver / Superintendent

For more information on the coronavirus, please see the attached fact sheet from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health both [in English](#) and [in Spanish](#).

The State of Massachusetts also provides detailed information about the current outbreak of Covid-19, or the coronavirus on the Mass.gov website ([mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov))

You can also get updates and information about Covid-19 from the Centers for Disease Control website ([CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)).

As always, Southbridge Public Schools places a high priority on the safety and well-being of our students, teachers, and staff. If there are any changes to the level of risk or if any other new developments occur, we will provide prompt notice to the community through our district website and other communication channels. Please stay healthy and practice the flu prevention techniques listed above.