

The seal of Shawsheen Valley Technical High School is circular. It features a central figure holding a torch and a book, surrounded by the text "SHAWSHEEN VALLEY TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL" and "1965".

# Shawsheen Valley Technical High School

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**MELANIE L. HAGMAN**

*Interim Superintendent-Director*

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Dear Parents and Guardians:

We understand that many families have questions regarding the recent outbreak of the Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) and how it may impact our local community. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention is providing daily updates and recommendations.

While this is a public health concern, the CDC continues to report that the immediate risk to the general public remains low at this time. As with seasonal flu and strep infections, there are general precautions we can all take to remain as healthy as possible.

- Practice good hand hygiene. Wash your hands often and thoroughly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands. Use Alcohol-based hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available.
- When coughing and sneezing, cover your mouth and nose with a tissue. You can also cough or sneeze into your sleeve. Throw used tissues in the trash and immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid sharing drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, dishes, towels or other items. Wash these items thoroughly with soap and water after use.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick whenever possible.
- Practice other good health habits: Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at home, work or school, especially when someone is ill. Get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids, and eat nutritious food.

It is important to keep children home from school when they are ill. If your child has any of the following symptoms please keep them home from school: temperature greater than 100.4°, coughing, vomiting, diarrhea, any rash not yet diagnosed by a physician, red or pink itchy eye, and/or drainage from eye, and any contagious illness such as chicken pox, strep throat or flu. For additional guidance on when to keep your student home, please refer to our school nurse, Ms. Margaret Joyce at 978-671-3625.

The Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) is an evolving situation that we are following closely and will continue to update you as information is shared with us. Please rest assured that we are monitoring student health concerns. We are in close communication with the local Board of Health and Massachusetts Department of Public Health/School Health Unit. Our School Facilities Department is vigilantly sanitizing our educational spaces as we typically do during cold and flu season. We are following all recommended guidelines to ensure the safety of our students and staff.

Information about COVID-19 will change quickly and recommendations may change accordingly. We will be vigilant about remaining as informed as possible and passing that information along to you as appropriate. Two websites that will provide updates include the Center for Disease Control at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/> and Massachusetts Division of Public Health Services at <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/department-of-public-health>

We remain deeply committed to students and staff wellness and will continue to share new information with you, as necessary, about this evolving situation.

Sincerely,



Melanie L. Hagman  
Interim Superintendent-Director



Margaret Joyce, RN, BSN  
School Nurse