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February 25, 2020

Dear Bristol Public Schools Parents and Guardians,

Recently students from Bristol Central High School traveled to and from Fano, Italy, from February 13 - February 21, 2020. Based on very recent developments concerning Coronavirus in Italy and the timing of our students' return from Italy, we conferred with the Bristol-Burlington Health District (BBHD). Information related to Coronavirus within the country of Italy emerged on February 23, 2020. Mr. Palmeri, the Director of the Bristol Burlington Health District, was cautious and recommended that all travelers remain home from school/work for 48 hours. This provided BBHD with enough time on Monday, February 24th to follow-up with the CT Department of Public Health (DPH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). At that time, based on information from the CT Department of Public Health (DPH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) the BBHD confirmed that **there are no directives for travelers returning from Europe, including Italy.** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>.

As of February 24, 2020, the CDC posted the following guidance and recommendations: Only travelers returning from Italy during the past 14 days *who feel sick (with fever, cough, or difficulty breathing) need to stay home.* This guidance has been communicated to the BCHS school community. Please understand that this decision is based on the most current guidance provided by the CDC and DPH and is subject to change at any time.

The Bristol Public Schools continue to utilize cleaning protocols associated with seasonal influenza. Since the start of the flu season, we have instituted cleaning efforts focused on door hardware, high traffic areas such as the cafeteria and library, classroom carpets, student and teacher desks, and chairs, as well as other hard surfaces within the classrooms. We have also provided sanitizer in all nursing areas and offices.

I remain in regular contact with the BBHD and will inform staff, parents, and students as information is received. We will continue to monitor the situation and communicate with you immediately.

Sincerely,

Catherine M. Carbone, Ed. D.  
Superintendent of Schools