



# Shutesbury Elementary School

[www.shutesburyschool.org](http://www.shutesburyschool.org)

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Dear Shutesbury Community,

I wanted to share some important information with all of you during this time of uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 virus. We are all experiencing changes and challenges due to the presence of the virus within our state. We want to share with you what we are doing within the school when children ask or may ask questions about COVID-19.

Last Friday during assembly, Ms. Mendonsa and I spoke briefly about the virus. The presentation's purpose was to ease any fears or worries that some of the children could be or are experiencing. We explained that our school will be doing its part to help stop the spread of the virus by washing our hands more frequently, coughing and sneezing into our sleeves, and staying home when we don't feel well. It was explained that we are hearing a lot about the virus because scientists and doctors use the news and internet to let everyone know what they can do to help, and we all want to help! The children responded positively. We've explained to staff that if any child is showing signs of anxiety or worries about the virus that our school counselor, Ms. Mendonsa, and myself are all here to ease their minds and talk through any worries they may be experiencing.

There are some helpful electronic resources available below for families that I want to share from the Centers for Disease Control and Boston Children's Hospital. I have also attached an informational flyer from the American Society of Pediatrics. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about this, or concerns for your child. I also attached the links to the videos we watched in the Health Office Update, located in the Roadtown News.

Sponsored by Boston Children's

<https://childmind.org/article/talking-to-kids-about-the-coronavirus>

From the CDC

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/talking-with-children.html>

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