



An Important Message from the Superintendent of Schools - COVID-19 Coronavirus Update

March 5, 2020

Dear School Community Members,

We are aware that a neighboring school district has closed its schools for the balance of the week to sanitize its facilities due to concerns related to the coronavirus (COVID-19). Please be assured that I continue to be in regular communication with the District physician, who is also in on-going contact with the Department of Health. Through these communications and all known local information related to COVID-19, we have been guided that there is no reason to close any of the Irvington schools.

As a District, we are taking as many precautionary steps as possible to provide for the well-being of our students and staff, which include the following measures:

- Sanitization of all classrooms and common spaces in each school multiple times each week (*note: this scheduled overtime expenditure is being offset by budgeted snow removal costs that have not been utilized*);
- On-going, daily cleaning/sanitization of all high contact items such as door knobs and handles, water fountains, bathroom fixtures, etc.;
- Installation of additional hand sanitizer stations in schools (supplies will be stocked as available through distributors);
- Daily sanitization of all school buses; and
- Initiation of planning for distance-learning options should schools need to be closed in the future for COVID-19 or other reasons.

Despite the growing number of cases of COVID-19, guidance remains consistent for public schools. This includes precautionary steps for individuals who have traveled to particular areas of the world (as identified by the CDC), the proper screening of those who display illness and practicing good sense which includes:

- Voluntary home isolation - students and staff should stay home when ill, except to obtain medical care or necessities
- Respiratory etiquette - Cover coughs and sneezes; use shirt sleeve if tissue not available - Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth
- Hand hygiene - Regular and thorough hand washing with soap and water, or alcohol-based hand sanitizers (due to requirements for schools, the sanitizer in school is alcohol-free)

The District will continue to use the guidance of governmental agencies and medical experts to inform planning and decision making. This also applies to decisions associated with whether to move forward with scheduled field trips outside the country and/or region. At this time, the District has not cancelled any trips and is not cancelling gatherings of large groups of people. However, this may change, based upon guidance and/or directives from the appropriate agencies or

experts.

The District will continue to maintain a [COVID-19 Coronavirus resource page](#) with important links and documents related to this public health concern. This week, we added an article that you may find useful that is designed to support parents in speaking to the children about the virus. [To access this article, please click here.](#)

I understand that these are concerning times for everyone and together we will navigate this challenge and others that confront our community. I will continue to keep you informed of new developments that affect our school community. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

My very best,

Kris

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