



Another Important Update from the Superintendent of Schools - COVID-19 Coronavirus

March 10, 2020

Dear Irvington School Community,

I write to share a few important updates that are associated with revised COVID-19 guidance that was published yesterday by the New York State Department of Health and the State Education Department.

Before beginning to read these important updates, I do want to state that at this time the District has no confirmed cases of COVID-19 among its students and staff.

New School Closure Guidance

Based on the guidance that was provided, if there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 of a student or staff member in our schools, the District will consult with the school physician, the NYS Department of Health and the Westchester County Department of Health. Based on the new guidance, the New York State Department of Health will require an initial 24-hour closure to enable health department experts to investigate potential contacts. As a result of such an investigation, it is possible that schools could be closed for a longer period of time. However, that will be determined based on the facts of the given situation.

Irvington Distance Learning Plans

Should the District need to close for an extended period of time, we are preparing to support the continuity of student learning. Over the past week, our faculty and administration have been developing the appropriate educational plans and will seek to finalize them during this Friday's Superintendent's Conference Day. Should we need to take such a step, on the third day of closure, directions will be sent to all families. The secondary schools will utilize Google Classroom to communicate assignments with students and the elementary schools will communicate via the respective school websites.

Note: Assigned work will be designed to support the maintenance of skills and knowledge and to ensure that students will be able to progress with the curriculum upon the reopening of school.

Technology and Internet Access

If the District were to have to close for an extended period of time, technology would play a significant role in accessing information on school assignments. It is important to the District that all students have equal access to the internet in order to complete the required assignments. Therefore, during this time, the District will make arrangements to provide loaner devices to families who do not have a computer in their home. Additionally, the District will be able to offer internet service to families who do not currently have access, to the extent that it

is available. If your family is in need of a computing device or internet access should the schools close related to the coronavirus, please contact Gina Menendez, School Social Worker, at Gina.Menendez@IrvingtonSchools.org or (914) 330-2047. She will arrange for you to receive the necessary equipment.

Student Breakfast and Lunch

If a family is eligible for free or reduced lunch and/or breakfast, the District is making plans to support student nourishment for your child(ren). Specific communication regarding this topic will be sent to eligible families.

As I have stated many times before, we are an incredibly strong community and together we can overcome any challenge. The coronavirus is just one example of a hurdle that we will clear together as a school community. As this virus is a very real concern for all of us, I ask that we remain focused on the facts and the science of COVID-19 and not allow ourselves to be captured by any sensationalism in the media. Please continue to make every effort to care for yourselves and your family and *bear in mind the guidance that has been offered in my prior communications related to [staying home if you are ill](#), [maintaining good handwashing](#), [sneezing and coughing etiquette](#) and [always reach out to your family physician with any health-related questions](#). Also, please refer to the [District's COVID-19 Coronavirus resource page](#) for additional information.*

Finally, in the days and weeks to come I will continue to provide updates as it relates to details of the coronavirus in our school community. If there is ever a confirmed case of COVID-19, I will communicate with the school community accordingly.

Stay well, stay positive,

Kris

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