

BOARD OF EDUCATION
SUSSEX-WANTAGE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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March 4, 2020

Dear Sussex-Wantage Families,

As the parent of three young children, I understand that there is nothing more important than the health and safety of our students and staff. I also understand the desire to know what is happening in our schools and to feel that your children are safe and well cared for at school. With that in mind, I am writing to inform you that the Sussex-Wantage Regional School District is monitoring alerts and information provided by the New Jersey Department of Education, New Jersey Department of Health, and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in regard to *Novel Coronavirus* (COVID-19). This letter is proactive in nature with the goal of keeping you informed. We do not have reported cases of COVID-19 in our schools.

The New Jersey Department of Health and CDC report that, at this time, the health risk to the general public for COVID-19 remains low. However, I want to update you on our efforts to ensure the health and safety of all students and staff in our buildings. We also want to educate staff, students, and community members about precautionary measures that can be taken.

Symptoms of COVID-19 appear to be similar to the flu or other respiratory illnesses; persons infected may have fever, cough, and shortness of breath. In order to prevent the spread of germs, the CDC recommends that individuals receive the flu vaccine, and engage in everyday, preventative measures which include:

- Stay home from class or work when you are sick
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing

We are also working proactively to address concerns regarding the spread of COVID-19 as well as seasonal cold and flu. These proactive measures include:

- Our Director of Facilities is monitoring the enhancement of our cleaning routines and frequency
- Collaborating with local and state resources to receive and disseminate information as appropriate
- Students and staff are being reminded to use healthy practices such as frequent hand washing and to cover sneezes and coughs
- We remain in close communication with the Sussex County Department of Health, Office of Emergency Management, and monitor guidelines received from the CDC and the New Jersey Department of Health

At this time, the New Jersey Department of Health states that there is no need to cancel school or social events. There are no restrictions on public gatherings. Students should be reminded that staying home when they are ill is a good practice. The District is not canceling any upcoming events or activities at this time. We do ask that any family or staff who have traveled to an area or region impacted by COVID-19 should seek the medical advice of their physician. Please refer to the CDC website to monitor travel advisories. They should notify the school nurse of their travel if their physician recommends it. In order to keep students, faculty, and staff safe while at school we will continue to keep you informed as necessary.

Please refer to the following resources for additional information:

- www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/ncov.shtml
- <https://www.sussex.nj.us/cn/webpage.cfm?tpid=17089>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>

Sincerely,

Michael Gall
Superintendent
Sussex-Wantage Regional School District