

March 9, 2020

Dear Waterford Township School District Parents/Guardians & Staff,

With a confirmed case of coronavirus (COVID-19) reported in Camden County on Friday, we wanted to let our school community know the steps we're taking to keep our students and staff healthy and safe.

Last week, the administrative team participated in a conference call with Governor Murphy and the New Jersey Department of Health Commissioner as well as a separate call with the Camden County Health Department on Friday morning. On both calls, health department officials shared guidelines and best practices for cleaning our buildings as well as general hygiene practices that everyone should follow to reduce the spread of germs. A dedicated webpage on the school district website is forthcoming and will contain facts and tips regarding coronavirus (COVID-19).

As information may be changing with time, we believe it is important to stay informed as we continue to prepare. School administration will continue meeting with the teaching staff, custodial staff and food service staff to keep everyone informed with the latest information about this virus.

It's important to remember that the threat of coronavirus (COVID-19) currently remains low to the general population. However, I'd like to inform you of the preemptive measures that have been taken thus far.

- The teaching staff will schedule more hand washing breaks, especially before snack and lunch time. Also, we have additional disinfectant wipes available in classrooms to enable the teachers and students to clean surfaces such as desks, chairs, and Chromebooks.
- Our custodial team has been briefed on enhanced cleaning practices during this season. The Supervisor of Maintenance, in partnership with the administrative team, met with our custodial staff on Friday to emphasize the importance of appropriately sanitizing all surfaces that people come in contact with including, desks, chairs, bookshelves, carpet, door handles, and restrooms.
- We are working with our teachers to develop alternate plans for instruction in the event of a public health related school closure. Related to this, we are assessing student accessibility to technology at home if schools were to be closed.

The New Jersey Department of Health reminds everyone that the best protection from contracting influenza or coronavirus (COVID-19) is to practice good hygiene. Practicing good hygiene includes the following:

- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue or into your sleeve, not your hands.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Wash hands often for at least 20 seconds, especially after coughing or sneezing.

- Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Stay home if you're sick, especially with a fever.
- Avoid people who are sick.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects.

For more information on coronavirus (COVID-19), visit the New Jersey Department of Health website at www.nj.gov/health.

We appreciate your cooperation as we continue to monitor the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) in New Jersey. If you have specific concerns, please contact the school nurse in your student's building.

Respectfully,

Dr. Brenda Harring
Superintendent