



## **Peekskill City School District**

*Our mission is to educate and empower all students to strive for excellence as life-long learners who embrace diversity and are contributing members of a global society.*

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Superintendent of Schools

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Dear Peekskill Families:

Like many other school districts, Peekskill has been reviewing information related to concerns over the possible spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the U.S. While influenza continues to be the most prevalent viral illness locally, we wish to inform our school community on some important information related to Coronavirus and our district's precautionary measures.

### **What do we currently know about Coronavirus?**

At this time, there are no confirmed cases of Coronavirus in New York State. Our District is operating under [the specific guidance issued to us by the State Departments of Health and Education](#) and are monitoring information shared by the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The District has and will continue to collaborate with relevant agencies, and will strictly follow the guidance that each entity provides to us so that we may create the safest and healthiest environment possible for our students.

Please note that the CDC (<https://www.cdc.gov/>) and Homeland Security (<https://www.dhs.gov/>) are applying travel restrictions as appropriate. [The CDC has provided guidelines for travelers](#), and we ask anyone traveling or returning to the country to follow all relevant recommendations/directives.

### **What measures have we taken in our schools?**

We ensure our families that our school administrators are monitoring the situation closely. Schools have been, and will continue to follow practices enacted during every flu season, including good hygiene practices, frequent handwashing, reminders to avoid sharing food and drinks, and enhanced cleaning of buildings/surfaces. Further, we will continue to be vigilant about having students with symptoms screened by our nurses (which includes asking about travel), and taking the appropriate next steps:

- In addition to regular nightly cleaning bathrooms, nurses' office and all classrooms' high touch areas are disinfected each night.
- High touch areas such as door knobs, bathroom fixtures and cafeteria tables are disinfected throughout the regular school day.
- School nurses are communicating with the custodial staff anytime a cluster (two or more students with the same symptoms) is reported in a single classroom to ensure that the entire room is disinfected that night.
- All schools were disinfected during the February recess.
- Students' daily attendance is being monitored, by homeroom and school, to determine if additional disinfection resources need to be deployed.

### **What can you do to help avoid spreading illness?**

The New York State Department of Health (DOH) recommends the following ways to minimize the spread of all respiratory viruses, including COVID-19. Parents should discuss this with their children in an age appropriate manner:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. (Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.)
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- As per District protocol, if your child is ill with a fever and/or cough, the child should remain home until fever-free without the use of fever-reducing medications for at least 24 hours.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing. If you use a tissue, throw it in the trash.
- Routinely clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- CDC recommends that travelers avoid all travel to China. Symptoms Information to date suggests that 2019-nCoV causes mild-to-moderate illness and symptoms like the flu, including fever, cough, and difficulty breathing.

### **What are our next steps?**

The District will work in conjunction with the Department of Health, NYS Education Department and the City of Peekskill, if further preventative measures are recommended, up to and including the closing of school. If school closing is deemed necessary, the community will be informed through our phone, email, and text systems similar to other emergencies with as much notice as possible. While we realize that closing our schools would be very disruptive, we will follow the directives of health and education agencies. We remain optimistic that the situation will remain under control and additional measures will not be necessary.

Always know that the health and safety of our students and staff is, and will always be, our highest priority. We will continue to be proactive and will promptly communicate any additional relevant information that we learn. Thank you for your cooperation and partnership.

Additional Resources:

- [Westchester County Department of Health](#)
- [New York State Department of Health's \(NYSDOH\) website](#)
- [NYSDOH Flu website](#)
- [NYSDOH Coronavirus website](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)
- [CDC Influenza website](#)
- [CDC Coronavirus website](#)

Sincerely,



Dr. David Mauricio  
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