

March 3, 2020

Greenwich Public Schools: Coronavirus Update, March 3, 2020

GPS Parents,

As you may have seen on the news, there have been confirmed cases of Coronavirus in the tristate area. We are monitoring news outlets and we continue to partner with the Town of Greenwich's Health Department, taking guidance and input from the CT State Department of Health and Center for Disease Control, on any necessary actions, including any adjustments to our school schedules or closing the schools. Should schools be closing, this will be communicated immediately from the District level. We ask that families be mindful of school level staff who are not part of the decision-making process for school closures, and therefore cannot answer questions regarding district-wide closures.

I understand that this is a concerning issue, and that you may have questions about how to communicate this information with young children, as children do hear adults speak, and they do catch portions of the news media and newspaper articles. National Public Radio (NPR) created [a helpful cartoon](#) that demonstrates how you can approach this conversation with your children, and the [National Association of School Psychologists](#) shared a robust list of guidelines for communicating to your children; we hope you find these to be a helpful resource.

As we continue to monitor the situation, please reinforce with your children the importance of covering their mouths when they cough, washing their hands frequently and other important precautionary measures that help stop the spread of germs. As a reminder, our Facilities Team continues to be proactive about cleaning our high-touch areas (door knobs, sinks, etc.), buses are wiped down daily and staff continuously remind students to wash their hands.

We are monitoring all field trips, and we ask that families be aware that events with large gatherings, usually in the evenings, may be cancelled out of an abundance of caution, if recommended by the Department of Health. Again, daily monitoring is occurring based on input from experts in the field.

We will continue to keep you updated as more information becomes available.

Thank you,
Dr. Toni Jones
Superintendent, Greenwich Public Schools