

POLICY STATEMENT FROM THE WESTCHESTER COUNTY EXECUTIVE GEORGE LATIMER
REGARDING WESTCHESTER COUNTY GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS
ON THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

The State of New York has primary responsibility for policy decisions and key public announcements regarding the outbreak of novel coronavirus in all jurisdictions within the State. The Westchester County Department of Health is tasked with implementation of the decisions made by State officials, which apply to all local governments and districts: County, City, Town, Village, Schools Districts and all special districts. The protocol for testing for the virus, establishing standards for precautionary or mandatory quarantine and isolation, public disclosure of statistics of those affected by the virus, and the myriad of decisions that follow, all come from this authority.

The County does not have direct authority for these decisions; we are required to implement State decisions and to manage quarantines. The County does not have the authority to close a school district, or to curtail any school event or activity.

The County government is working with local School Districts to ensure a clear and timely dialogue with State decision makers so that actions taken are based on facts, rooted in medical and scientific standards, and are determined to be in the best interests of all of our residents.