



**HARRISON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**50 UNION AVENUE**  
**HARRISON, NEW YORK 10528**

---

(914) 630-3023  
FAX# (914) 835-5893  
super@harrisoncsd.org

LOUIS N. WOOL, Ed.D.  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

**A Message from Dr. Wool, Superintendent of Schools**  
**Update on the Coronavirus**  
**March 12, 2020**

*A Call for the Immediate Closure of All Public Schools*

Dear Members of Our Learning Community,

The safety and well-being of our students, faculty, and staff guide every decision I make and are the basis for all decisions of the Board of Education. Today, I am asking you to join me in calling upon the Governor to implement a statewide closing of all schools for two weeks. Lacking a more thoughtful response from the outset, the Board and I believe that this is the most effective way to limit the further spread of this virus and safeguard the health and safety of our schools and our community. The Governor can be reached at 518-474-8390, option 2.

The directive from the New York State Department of Health requires the closing of public schools only if a member of the school community has a verified positive test. Many schools have closed without verification of a positive test; most have not. School district leaders are making the best choices they can, in the absence of more definitive guidance. These uneven approaches undermine the strategy of limiting exposure.

The containment policy implemented in New Rochelle is intended to prevent further contamination in the general population, an incredibly important goal. However, individuals within the containment area are traveling freely throughout the county, interacting with one another and even working in other school districts, contradicting the goal of containment.

Today, March 12, 2020, Governor Cuomo issued a mandate banning public gatherings of over 500 people to stem the spread of the virus. The guidance does not apply to schools. In our district, three of our six schools exceed 500 when you include faculty.

This lack of a comprehensive strategy is causing grave concern for parents, students, faculty, and staff. If containment is essential, and the virus is more widespread than originally thought, let us take decisive action now. If the State has determined that containment is the best strategy and is necessary to limit the spread of the virus, then it should implement a comprehensive plan and act upon it immediately.

I write to ask your support by calling on the Governor (at 518-474-8390, option 2) to immediately close all schools throughout New York State, not just in Westchester County. The virus is more widespread than was initially believed. In light of everything that occurs in our schools during April, May, and June, closing schools now will stem the potential spread of the virus and minimize the impact on students. In the best of circumstances, schools would reopen knowing the virus is contained, and the environment is safe.

My entire instructional team is diligently devoted to the well-being of your children. In the event of a school closure, our district is prepared to continue educating and caring about your children. Thank you for your ongoing support and understanding in these very trying times.

Louis N. Wool, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools