

February 28, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We wanted to share an update regarding Novel Coronavirus or COVID-19 (formerly referred to as 2019-nCoV). Since our last communication to families and staff, concerns about COVID-19 have escalated due to further disease outbreaks abroad and an increase in suspected cases domestically.

The District remains vigilant in monitoring the status and potential risk of COVID-19 for our students and staff. We continue to collaborate regularly with our Medical Advisor, Dr. Timothy Kenefick, the Director of the Darien Health Department, Mr. David Knauf, the First Selectman's office and other town and state officials to ensure we are following all recommendations.

As you may be aware, the latest publications from health officials include suggestions to prepare for potential school closures and planning alternate arrangements for continuing education from a distance. The District is currently reviewing various options and logistics associated in providing remote learning in the event COVID-19 disrupts the school calendar.

The District continues to follow standard cleaning practices in all schools. Our custodial staff is paying special attention to wiping down "touchpoint surfaces" such as door handles, railings, desks and keyboards. Should recommendations for additional cleaning procedures evolve, we will adjust our practices accordingly.

Concerns have been raised about students and family members who are returning from travel, especially to/from areas affected by COVID-19. The District will address such concerns on a case-by-case basis in close consultation with our local and state health officials. If you or members of your family are traveling, we strongly suggest you review and follow the travel advisories set forth by the US Department of State and the CDC (links below).

The District continues its efforts to prevent the spread of infectious disease at school, whether it be influenza or COVID-19, by encouraging our students and staff to:

- Cover coughs/sneezes with sleeve/elbow, not hands;
- Wash hands thoroughly and often, especially after coughing or sneezing; and using the restroom, preferably with soap and water;
- Remain home from school, work and public spaces when ill; and
- Keep all surfaces clean throughout the day.

Finally, we request your continued cooperation in promptly retrieving your children from school if they become ill during the day. As possible, students exhibiting symptoms of illness will be isolated, under supervision of the school nurse, until they can be picked up. Additionally, children with symptoms of illness (fever, rash, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, persistent coughing/runny nose, congestion, breathing issues), or a diagnosed illness (influenza, strep throat, pneumonia, etc.), should remain home until well. We understand children may require an extra day or two of rest to ensure they are healthy enough to return to the learning environment. Please communicate with your school nurse for any absence longer than three (3) days.

Below you will find several links to additional resources to remain informed about COVID-19. Please feel free to reach out to Alicia Casucci, the Director of Nursing Services, at acasucci@darienps.org or 203.655.3981 x 2304 with any questions or concerns you may have.

As always, the health and safety of our students and staff remain our highest priority.

Sincerely,

Alan Addley

Dr. Alan Addley
Superintendent
Darien Public Schools

Alicia Casucci APRN

Alicia Casucci, APRN, CPNP-PC, NCSN
Director of Nursing Services
Darien Public Schools

<https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Public-Health-Preparedness/Main-Page/2019-Novel-Coronavirus>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

<https://www.nih.gov/health-information/coronavirus>

https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/situation-reports/20200225-sitrep-36-covid-19.pdf?sfvrsn=2791b4e0_2

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html/>