

March 10, 2020

Dear Little Red Families,

Given the amount of media attention it has received, the District is reaching out to our families regarding the coronavirus (also known as COVID-19). As always, our student safety remains the highest importance to us.

Corona viruses are a large family of viruses that cause symptoms of colds. The virus likely spreads from coughing/sneezing droplets or close contact with another sick person. Common symptoms can include fever with cough, shortness of breath, headache, sore throat and runny nose. However, some people have fewer of these symptoms or none at all.

We are closely monitoring this ongoing situation and following guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), the New York State Education Department (NYSED) and the Rensselaer County Health Department.

The District is taking the same preventive measures as during cold and flu seasons, including regularly disinfecting surfaces and frequently reminding students and staff to wash their hand often. Our teachers have been talking to the students more about the spread of germs and proper hand washing techniques. The students have also been provided with hand sanitizer for use before and after snack and lunch. As always, we highly recommend that you keep your child home from school if he/she is sick.

The following are NYSDOH suggestions for minimizing the spread of all respiratory viruses, including the coronavirus:

- *Wash your hands often, for at least 20 seconds, with soap and water**
- *Use at least 60% alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are unavailable**
- *Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands**
- *Avoid close contact with those you know are sick**
- *Stay home if you or your child feels sick.**

We encourage you to keep up to date about the coronavirus, its treatment and prevention by visiting the following websites:

- * CDC's dedicated 2019-nCoV website**
- * NYSDOH's dedicated 2019-nCoV website**
- * NYSDOH directory of local health departments**
- * New York State Center for School Health website**

Thank you for your help keeping our students, staff and community safe.

Sincerely,

SallyAnn Shields

Coordinator of Instruction