

Flemington-Raritan Regional School District
Mrs. Kari McGann
Superintendent of Schools
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To: Flemingington-Raritan Regional School District Families
Re: Coronavirus COVID-19
Date: March 9, 2020

As information about the Coronavirus continues to dominate the news, I want to reassure you that, as always, the safety of our students and staff is our top priority. We are closely monitoring the spread of COVID-19.

First and foremost, all our actions are guided by the local, state, and federal health authorities who are the experts in keeping our communities safe from public health threats. We monitor the agencies' guidance daily and are in particularly close contact with our local health department. Last week area Hunterdon County School Superintendents met with Karen DeMarco, the Director and Health Officer of the Hunterdon County Department of Health. We heard from Karen the steps the Hunterdon County Health Department is taking to ensure community health and safety. You can find information from the [Hunterdon County Health Department about the Coronavirus](#), which includes two important links dated March 6, 2020; one is a video, and the other is information for Hunterdon County's Schools.

We are taking extra precautions when cleaning our facilities and on school buses to limit the spread of germs. Commonly touched areas are given special attention. [On February 28, I shared in a District letter to our community](#) that our District had adopted enhanced school cleanliness and disinfection protocols, including the disinfection of frequently touched services and objects. Additionally, our custodial staff increased the level of cleaning and disinfecting in rooms that have had students with symptoms of cold and flu and the stomach virus. We have procedures in place to ensure students and staff who become ill at school will be attended to and sent home as soon as possible.

The Commissioner of Education, Lamont O. Repollet, distributed to Superintendent of Schools guidance regarding requirements for public health-related school closures. The broadcast gave guidelines, although vague, on what home instruction would count toward a district's 180-day attendance requirement during a public-health related and directed school closure. Area Hunterdon County Superintendents are meeting this Wednesday with the Executive County Superintendent's Office. I am hopeful of receiving more guidance on Wednesday.

The District is developing contingency plans, so we are ready to respond if widespread illness causes more significant impacts, such as school closures. The District is using the [New Jersey Department of Health provided guidance](#) for schools and guidance from the [Commissioner of Education, Dr. Repollet](#) and the [New Jersey Department of Health provided guidance](#) for schools to prepare for a continuation of learning for students. If the District receives a notice from the New Jersey Department of Health or a health officer of the jurisdiction to institute a public health-related closure, we will be prepared for a continuation of learning.

To prepare the District is developing a school health-related closure preparedness plan to provide home instruction in the event of such a closure. We are hopeful that the plan will not be needed, but preparing nonetheless. Our administrative team met today and continued planning ways learning can continue in the event we should close. I will provide more information on this plan as it becomes available.

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There is no talk of closing our District at this time. Additionally, there are no plans to limit field trips or cancel events—**however, issues surrounding this virus change rapidly**. In the event of closures or cancellations, we will contact you via our notification system as we do for snow days. Thus, as always, it is crucial that we have your accurate contact information. Contact your school's main office if you are not sure how to change your information within Genesis.

Although the spread of COVID-19 appears to have started in China, it is essential to remember that Coronavirus infection is not connected to any race, ethnicity, or nationality. We should not make assumptions about a student's or staff member's risk of illness based on any of these factors. Misinformation about Coronavirus can create fear and hostility that harms people and makes it harder to keep everyone healthy.

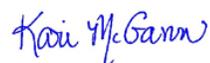
If you are traveling out of the United States, please contact your school nurse before your child's returning to school to discuss your child's re-entry into our District. If your child is sick and not coming to school, use the absentee line to provide information as to the reason for your child's absence. Find guidance on [Sick Day information and whether or not to send your child to school here](#).

We will continue to keep you informed as things change. In the meantime, continue to follow the guidelines we routinely emphasize as with other respiratory illnesses:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after coughing or sneezing.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home while you are sick and avoid close contact with others.
- Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze and throw away tissues.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.

It is natural to feel apprehensive when facing a challenge like this one. I understand that you are concerned and encourage you to be well informed. Below are a couple of resources to help you do that. Thank you for working with us to keep everyone healthy.

Sincerely,



Superintendent of Schools

and Flemingington-Raritan Regional School Nurses:

Alyssa Salerno, Barley Sheaf Elementary School
Kathleen Barbee, Francis A. Desmares Elementary School
Lisa Maslankowski, Copper Hill Elementary School
Susanna Cunniff, Robert Hunter Elementary School
Lisa Koye, Reading Fleming Intermediate School & J.P. Case Middle School
Veronica Cioni, Reading Fleming Intermediate School & J.P. Case Middle School
Leigh Ann Koch, Reading Fleming Intermediate School
Noreen Bradley, J.P. Case Middle School

[A link to our area school nurse information is here.](#)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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

New Jersey Department of Health

<https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/ncov.shtml>

Hunterdon County Health Department Coronavirus information

<http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/coronavirus.html>