



Florham Park Public Schools
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February 28, 2020

Dear Florham Park Parents/Guardians,

RE: Coronavirus “COVID-19” District Update

The safety, health and well-being of our students and staff has and continues to be the priority of the Florham Park School District. While there are no confirmed cases of the COVID-19 in our schools or surrounding area, the District continues to monitor the alerts from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention “CDC”](#) regarding the COVID-19 and the most up-to-date guidance provided by the [New Jersey Department of Education](#) and the [New Jersey Department of Health](#). If/when we receive further guidance, we will communicate this to you, as we do with any significant health related concern.

The Florham Park Board of Education has policy in place to guide the District through these types of circumstances. [District Policy 8451](#) - Control of Communicable Disease outlines clear procedures and steps that we follow in any infectious situation. District Policy 8451 further requires that we comply with all regulations of the New Jersey Department of Health and the local and county Board of Health offices governing the prevention, control, and reporting of communicable disease. Although these protocols are in place, the District recognizes that these protocols could be modified due to directives from local and state agencies. Taking a proactive approach, the administrative team has already met to discuss contingency plans for various scenarios that may present itself to meet the instructional needs of the students.

The District continues to maintain enhanced daily cleaning at all of our schools and has increased these efforts due to the current situation. Increased daily cleaning is also performed during flu season each year as per District protocol. Additionally, we continue to emphasize with our school community that regular [hand-washing with soap and water](#) is the most effective method to help prevent illness and the spreading of disease. Hand sanitizers are not provided in the classrooms, but students are permitted to use their own personal hand sanitizer, as long as they do not share this with others and it is kept in their book bag, coat, pocket, etc.

The Department of Health and our local health departments recommend that all families with a child who (within the past two weeks) has traveled to an area of the world highly impacted by the Coronavirus, contact their child’s principal and/or school nurse prior to sending their child back to school. Our school nurses will work with these families to determine the appropriate timeline for re-entry to school. Please also understand, that we cannot discuss the health concerns of other students/families due to confidentiality restrictions.

We would like to remind you of CDC recommended precautions for preventing, limiting the exposure to, and spreading of the flu and other viruses:

- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or with your sleeve, not your hands.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth.
- Wash hands often, with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after coughing or sneezing.
- Keep your children home when they are sick. Children should not return to school unless they have been fever-free without medication for 24 hours.
- Avoid people who are sick.
- Get the [Flu Vaccine](#).
- Clean and disinfect frequently-touched surfaces and objects.
- If your child or family member does not feel well, see your doctor.
- See additional CDC [guidelines](#).

According to the CDC, “While the immediate risk of this new virus to the American public is believed to be low at this time, everyone can do their part to help us respond to this emerging public health threat.” Our school nurses monitor student and staff absences daily and report any flu-like symptoms to the health department. Staff members and families are reminded to take precautions and practice proper respiratory hygiene as listed above.

In summary and to reiterate, this letter is for informational purposes only as the Florham Park School District remains proactive in our approach. As situations evolve, the District is prepared to comply with directions from the state and local health agencies and the New Jersey Department of Education to make any adjustments, if needed.

Thank you for taking the time to review this information and collaborating with us to help maintain a healthy school community. The District will continue to provide updates and information as appropriate and necessary.

Sincerely,

Steven Caponegro

Dr. Steven Caponegro
Superintendent of Schools

<https://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/infectioncontrol/faqs/respiratory-hygiene.html>

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/summary.html#anchor_1580064337377

<https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/index.html>