



Livingston PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

The health and safety of our students and staff is a top priority for the Livingston Public Schools. For that purpose, I wanted to reach out to our families to emphasize the importance of making smart decisions about school attendance when a child presents signs of illness, and to reiterate the value of reminding children about good habits when it comes to avoiding and preventing the spread of germs.

Over the past several weeks, a lot has been reported about the 2019 Novel Coronavirus. The Coronavirus originated abroad with some confirmed cases in the United States, mostly on the West Coast. Additionally, there has been quite a bit of discussion about the annual flu season, which appears to be fully upon us. According to the latest information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), there are currently no confirmed cases of the Coronavirus in New Jersey. We also have not received any information that this year's flu season is particularly challenging.

Nonetheless, in response to the concern about both the Coronavirus and the flu, yesterday the CDC and the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) sent out information outlining best practices for avoiding respiratory illness in schools. [Click here to view the document.](#)

In the document, the following important preventative measures for avoiding respiratory illness are listed:

- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve, not your hands.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Wash hands often for at least 20 seconds, especially after coughing or sneezing.
- Use alcohol based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Stay home if you are sick, especially with a fever.
- Avoid people who are sick.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects.

Rest assured, we are taking steps to prevent the spread of illness throughout all of the schools in Livingston. We are undertaking extra cleaning measures to minimize contamination, sending students home when they present certain signs of illness, and implementing the recommendations of the CDC, NJDOH, and our local health department. I want to commend our school nurses who work each day to help us keep our educational environments healthy ones.

Livingston Public Schools: Empowering all to learn, create, contribute and grow.

While our staff focuses on prevention in the schools, we also ask for your assistance at home. Please do not send your child to school if he or she has a fever, other signs of the flu, or you believe he or she might be sick. We also request, if you or members of your family have recently traveled abroad to areas impacted by the Coronavirus, that you please contact your school nurse before your child returns to school so that we can work with you to help make the best decision about his or her re-entry to the school environment.

We sincerely appreciate your partnership, consideration, and cooperation as we strive to keep our schools as healthy as possible.

Sincerely,

Matthew J. Block, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools