



Livingston PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Dr. Matthew J. Block
Superintendent of Schools

11 Foxcroft Drive
Livingston, New Jersey 07039
Telephone: (973) 535-8000 ext. 8011
E-mail: mblock@livingston.org
Website: www.livingston.org

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Dear Livingston Public Schools Families:

On February 2nd, I sent an email to the community asking families for their assistance in keeping our schools as healthy and safe as possible during flu and virus season.

I want to reiterate the request 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, please contact their child's principal and/or school nurse prior to sending their child back to school. As of today, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) lists China, Japan, Hong Kong, Iran, Italy, and South Korea as areas of concern. This list may evolve over time. You can view the list on the CDC website, <https://www.cdc.gov/>.

As stated in my previous letter, "If your child has recently returned from the type of travel indicated above, please contact your principal or school nurse at least one day in advance of the date you plan to send your child back to school. We will work with individual families and health professionals to determine appropriate timelines and processes for reentry to school for children who have traveled to impacted areas." We appreciate all of the families that have provided us with notification to this point. Communication and cooperation is key to making our protocols as effective as possible.

We are currently following all recommendations of the CDC, and the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) with regards to our flu and virus prevention practices. We continue to work very closely with medical professionals and local health officials, and are staying abreast of any new information and alerts. We have intensive cleaning protocols in place, and are deep cleaning our schools on weekends. We have foaming hand sanitizer in all of our schools, spread throughout the buildings, and we are encouraging our students to wash their hands and practice healthy habits. Additionally, as recommended by the CDC, we have started planning for possible future scenarios that may require additional action.

Again, there are some simple behaviors that are particularly effective at preventing the flu and other viruses:

- 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 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.

Thank you for helping to keep our students and staff safe and healthy.

It is important that we be vigilant, but we also remain calm and thoughtful. I want to remind the community that there are no confirmed cases of Coronavirus in Livingston or New Jersey. There are currently 62 cases in the United States, and a majority of those originated on one cruise ship. If we go

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about our lives (which is recommended), and visit public places, we most likely will come in contact with people that have traveled abroad to some of the identified areas. Awareness, positive personal health habits, and proactive communication are our best tools to remain as healthy as possible. We are confident that our schools remain safe and healthy places, and we will continue to work each day to maintain that status moving forward.

Thank you again for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Matthew Block, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools