



Olga Hugelmeyer
Superintendent of Schools
March 2, 2020

Dear Elizabeth Public Schools Community:

One of the top priorities of Elizabeth Public Schools is the health of our students and team members and creating a safe, caring learning environments is a responsibility we all share.

As you probably are aware, COVID-2019 is a respiratory infection caused by a novel (new) virus that arose from the area of Wuhan, China in December, 2019. Coronaviruses are a family of viruses, just like influenza is a family of viruses. A new coronavirus is always a public health concern because they can be unpredictable since humans have no immunity. Information and developments are constantly changing and being updated. A lot of people are wondering about their risk and it is important to know that the current risk to the general public in the United States is considered to be low. *In New Jersey there have been no confirmed cases of COVID-19.*

The NJ Department of Health is working with the City of Elizabeth Department of Health and Human Services to monitor the situation and provide updates as changes occur along with creating guidance documents and educational materials for community outreach. One of the services provided by the New Jersey Department of Health is a 24 hour Hotline where people can call with any questions and concerns. ***The number to the COVID-19 Call Center is 1-800-222-1222.***

For most people who become infected with the virus that causes COVID-19, they experience symptoms much like other respiratory illnesses with fever, cough, and shortness of breath. These symptoms can range from mild to severe. Please note that Influenza affects millions of people around the United States each year.

It is recommended that the following guidelines be followed prevent the spread of influenza and COVID-19:

- Prevent the spread of germs by covering coughs and sneezes.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds. Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Routinely clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Stay home if you are sick and avoid sick people.

An additional protocol that the district follows on a daily basis includes our efforts to keep our buildings clean and healthy. Our schools have been cleaned in a more aggressive manner these past few months, including all “touch points” (door knobs, railings, student desks, etc.) We encourage all our team members

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to be vigilant and to disinfect any potential areas. The District will continue to disinfect all schools and has consulted with its cleaner provider to obtain a new cleaner/disinfectant product with a broader spectrum of viruses and bacteria efficacy, including the human coronavirus. We also will continue to be diligent about encouraging good hand hygiene.

For more information, please once again feel free to call the New Jersey Department of Health's COVID-19 24 hour call center at 24 hour at 1-800-222-1222 and/or visit the following websites:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/summary> Centers for Disease Control
<https://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/topics/ncov.shtml> New Jersey Department of Health
www.cityofelizabethnj.org City of Elizabeth

Again, it is a collective effort, from parents, as well as our team members, to vigilantly ensure that we maintain a safe and healthy school community. Thank you for your continued support of Elizabeth Public Schools.

Sincerely



Olga Hugelmeyer
Superintendent of Schools

Elizabeth Public Schools offers translation accessibility of district communication and materials. For further assistance, please contact hugelmol@epsnj.org.

Las Escuelas Públicas de Elizabeth ofrecen accesibilidad de traducción de comunicación y materiales del distrito. Para obtener más ayuda, comuníquese con hugelmol@epsnj.org

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Lekòl Piblik Elizabeth yo ofri tradiksyon aksè nan kominikasyon distri a ak materyèl yo. Pou plis asistans tanpri kontakte hugelmol@epsnj.org

المدارس بمنطقة اليزابيث التعليميه تقدم خدمه الترجمة لجميع اللغات في حاله الحاجه لهذه الخدمة المقدمة اتصل برقم hugelmol@epsnj.org