



POUGHKEEPSIE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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| Telephone (845) 249-5937 |

Eric J. Rosser, PhD, Superintendent of Schools

To: Faculty and Staff

From: Dr. Rosser, Superintendent of Schools

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "ER", enclosed in a blue circular scribble.

Subject: Coronavirus

Date: March 9, 2020

The health of our school community is vital to the work we engage in to provide children with a quality education. Protecting the health of our community will require clear communication, collective responsibility, and a proactive approach to guaranteeing that our children and staff are able to engage in teaching and learning without fear of their health being compromised within our school environments.

While there are no confirmed cases in Dutchess County at this time, with the rapid evolution of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) globally and within neighboring counties, it is important that;

- communication is clear and frequent,
- we are knowledgeable of the virus, and
- we engage in precautionary strategies to protect our school environments.

Since notice of the confirmed case in downstate New York, I have been in communication with local and state government officials, neighboring school superintendents, and various members of our staff so that I remain current to what is occurring state-wide, in the region, and locally. As with this correspondence, I will provide updates to our faculty and staff as we confront the impact of this pandemic on our local community.

Provided is a summary of activity that has occurred to date:

- I have engaged in multiple weekly meetings and conference calls related to COVID-19
- Tasked the Director of Facilities to evaluate the cleanliness of our facilities and to organize "deep" cleans of our school facilities (to start this weekend)
- Conducted walk-throughs of our facilities to personally evaluate the cleanliness of our facilities (this will continue until I visit every school)
- Established daily update calls with the Mayor and will be meeting with the Mayor and City Administrator today (March 9, 2020)
- Reviewing and refining our local protocols

- Drafted and released correspondence to our parents (which an update will be sent out shortly)
- Establishing a Coronavirus Resource Center on our website for our school community to access resources and research-based guidance (will be activated no later than Wednesday)
- Creating a District protocol for nurses related to fever and illness (forthcoming)
- Creating a common message for principals to communicate with students, staff, and parents (forthcoming).

This week, I will continue to work closely with local and NYSED officials, along with a team of District leaders and educators, to further develop our strategy for maintaining school environments conducive to learning and instruction while minimizing the spread of illness.

On behalf of the Board of Education, I appreciate your patience in this unusual time and would like to thank you for your commitment to Poughkeepsie City School children. Our students benefit from all that you do every day.