



Pearl River School District

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Marco F. Pochintesta
Superintendent of Schools

March 5, 2020

Dear Pearl River School Community,

As school officials from across Rockland County continue to monitor developments concerning Coronavirus (COVID-19), we realize the importance of communication as we work to ensure the health and safety of our students and staff. As of the date of this writing (March 5, 2020), the Rockland County Department of Health and the New York State Health Department have not confirmed any known COVID-19 cases within the Rockland BOCES Supervisory District.

Pearl River School District administrators are meeting regularly to review new and timely information regarding COVID-19 and, if necessary, adjust our actions. It is important to note that our parents, guardians, students and staff are integral partners in our COVID-19 planning and response as we move forward.

Please read and understand the following guidance:

- Keep an ill student home, or make arrangements with a caregiver, when signs or symptoms of illness are present.
- Students with symptoms of illness consistent with influenza or COVID-19 who are present at school ***MUST be picked up promptly.***
- In the event that a parent, guardian, or other emergency contact cannot pick up a student exhibiting signs of illness consistent with influenza or COVID-19, ***ambulance transportation will be arranged.***
- Please notify us if your student has a contagious illness. An exposure may be life-threatening for others with fragile immune systems or certain underlying medical conditions.
- Depending on the particular situation, a student ***MAY NOT*** return to school without a doctor's note stating that he/she no longer presents a health risk to himself/herself or others.

Students (and adults) must be fever free for 24 hours before returning to school - without fever-reducing medication. Giving a fever-reducing medication just before returning to school does not make a student well. It only masks the fever until the medication wears off, at which time symptoms reappear. In this situation, a student must be home so others are not exposed to illness, as the student may still be contagious.

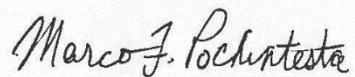
The Pearl River School District is planning normal operations for the remainder of this week and next week, while taking necessary precautions recommended by state and local health officials. It is understood that this could change at any moment and, as an agency, we are prepared to make that decision should it become necessary.

We cannot emphasize enough the importance of remaining calm, being prepared and informed. We appreciate your partnership in keeping our school community healthy and safe. ***The same steps you take to reduce the spread of flu or other respiratory illnesses are key tools for reducing the spread of this highly contagious virus.***

Thank you for your continued support.

Please visit our [Coronavirus Information web page](#) or rocklandbooces.org for updated COVID-19 resources and best practices for prevention of this illness.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marco J. Pochini". The signature is written in a cursive style and is set against a light gray rectangular background.