



# Pearl River School District

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**Marco F. Pochintesta, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent of Schools

March 26, 2020

Dear Pearl River School Community,

As you know, our last reported day of student attendance in our schools was March 13. On Monday, March 16 faculty and staff participated in a professional development day either in person or remotely in preparation for continuing learning opportunities for students. Since that time, our facilities have been closed, with the exception of our food services contractor providing meals for eligible students outside of Pirate Cove. For the vast majority of our faculty and staff, March 16 marked the final day of work in a Pearl River School District building. I continue to participate in virtual meetings and regular telephone briefings with local school district superintendents, administrators and the New York State Education Department, as well as state and local health officials. It is our goal to keep staff and families informed as new and relevant information becomes available.

With March 13 as our last date of student attendance, the likelihood of a potential pupil exposure while at school is diminishing with time. We have received notification from three PRSD employees that they have confirmed cases of COVID-19. Two are at the Middle School, and one at the High school. As per the guidance I received from the Department of Health when I contacted them, since these individuals were not symptomatic during the time that they were last in the school building, it is not considered an exposure to the virus. **Please be reminded that, according to the Rockland County Department of Health, 99% of those who develop Coronavirus symptoms will do so within 14 days of exposure.**

Unfortunately, due to the number of confirmed Coronavirus cases in our area, the Rockland County Department of Health can no longer notify school districts of active student, staff and/or family cases.

As the number of cases in our county continues to rise, I urge you and your families to stay home and, if you must venture out into public spaces, please practice social distancing and precautionary hygiene measures. We wish those in our community who have been directly impacted a swift and complete recovery.

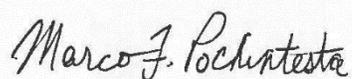
Please remember that each of us plays an important role in keeping all of us safe. Our school community is a family and we must do our part in minimizing the spread of this virus. Be reminded that our playgrounds and athletic fields and courts are **closed**. As per the current Executive Order, our schools remain closed until further notice. I will continue to provide updates to our school community via our school messaging platform, website and social media.

Please know that the health and safety of our entire school community is our prime concern. At this time, practicing preventative measures recommended by the Department of Health, including staying home and washing hands frequently for at least 2 minutes, is the best action that we can take to keep our community safe.

Our online learning program for students began six days ago. Our faculty and staff are doing a terrific job. We have received a lot of positive feedback and appreciation from parents and as we move forward, we will continue to work at identifying and addressing issues and dealing with new challenges as they arise.

Please know that we all remain committed to doing the best that we can for our students during this crisis. Please continue staying informed through our updates, website, and know that staying home and following the preventative measures offered by our Department of Health is the best action we, as a community, can take.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marco J. Pochini". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.