



Building Bridges for today's students to cross into tomorrow's world with equity, innovation and optimism

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James J. Montesano, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

REVISED LETTER (Revisions in Red)

March 9, 2020

Dear Nyack Schools 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 time 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. Nyack Schools 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.

According to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), COVID-19 is a respiratory illness caused by a novel (new) virus. There is currently no vaccine to protect against COVID-19. The CDC has advised that, at this point, the best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to the virus that causes it. Stopping transmission (spread) of the virus through everyday practices is the best way to keep people healthy. This includes, but is not limited to, actions such as staying home when sick, appropriately covering coughs and sneezes, cleaning frequently touched surfaces, and washing hands often.

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. The CDC has advised that symptoms of COVID-19 may appear 2-14 days after exposure and that COVID-19 symptoms are as follows:
 - Fever
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath.
- When students are determined by the school administrator(s) in consultation with the school nurse(s) to have symptoms of a contagious illness at school, such students ***MUST be picked up promptly***. The parent(s) or guardian(s) of such students will be contacted by the school administrator(s) or designee to inform them of the situation. If unavailable, the school administrator(s) or designee will contact the person(s) listed on file as the emergency contact(s) for such students.
- In the event that a parent or guardian (or a person listed on file as the emergency contact) cannot pick up a student exhibiting signs of a contagious illness, ***ambulance transportation may be obtained*** if the student's symptoms are determined by the school administrator(s)

in consultation with the school nurse(s) to be consistent with COVID-19 and the student has been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or has recently traveled from an area with widespread or ongoing community spread of COVID-19. Any student for whom ambulance transportation is obtained will be accompanied by an appropriate school staff member, who will remain with the student until the arrival of a parent or guardian (or a person listed on file as the emergency contact).

- Please notify us if your student has a contagious illness. An exposure may be life-threatening for others with fragile immune systems or certain 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 may only mask the fever until the medication wears off. In this situation, a student must be home so others are not exposed to illness.

Our school district is planning normal operations next week, with the precautions provided 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 can't emphasize enough the importance of remaining calm, being prepared and informed. ***The same steps you take to reduce the spread of flu or other respiratory illnesses are key tools for reducing the spread of this virus.***

Thank you for your continued support.



James J. Montesano, Ed.D.
Superintendent