



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

Administration Building • 13A Dickinson Avenue • Nyack, NY 10960 • (845)353-7000
Phone: (845) 353-7015 • Fax: (845) 353-0508 • Email: jmontesano@nyackschools.org

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

March 10, 2020

Dear Rockland BOCES Families and Staff,

In our ongoing effort to provide our school communities with accurate, timely and consistent messaging, we are sharing additional information relating to the ongoing Coronavirus (COVID-19) health situation. As of today (March 10), there are six confirmed cases in Rockland County, according to the Rockland County Department of Health.

The Rockland County Department of Health, Rockland BOCES and our Rockland County school districts remain in close contact to determine the best measures, including potential school closures, to make certain we are making the best decisions for our students, staff members and families. **All partners** have a common interest in preventing transmission of COVID-19 and other infections in schools.

Our building faculty and administrators are working with families, as we always do, when students are unable to attend school because of health issues. **We encourage you to contact your family's healthcare providers and make decisions in the best interest of your family.**

Cleaning

The school districts and Rockland BOCES have enhanced its existing cleaning and disinfecting protocols. Our custodial crews are working hard every day to keep schools clean and healthy places for all students and staff. Special attention is being given to public spaces and high-touch surfaces.

School Closure

Based on the latest guidance from the Rockland County Department of Health and the New York State Education Department, we do not anticipate a school building closure unless there is a confirmed case of Coronavirus. Our local health department will notify the school district or BOCES if, and when, a school must close due to COVID-19 and when a school can reopen.

School Trips/Facility Use

Local school trips are currently scheduled to proceed as planned. We will continue to monitor field trips and building usage that take place over the next few months and will make final determinations as the situation evolves. *International travel has been suspended by the school districts and BOCES.*

Extracurricular Activities/External Organizations

If school is in session, the permit holder will make the decision as to whether to hold the event. The Rockland County Department of Health recommends that residents avoid non-essential gathering in large groups to the extent possible. In some cases, the districts or

BOCES may cancel or postpone particular events and activities held inside and outside of the school day, based upon the needs of our host organization. *Events will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis in consult with the Department of Health and the host.* We may consider asking outside groups to end activities earlier to allow custodial staff additional time for deep cleaning.

How you can help

We encourage you to follow the best practices as provided by the New York State Department of Health and the Rockland County Health Department:

- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home while sick and avoid close contact with others.
- Cover mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash hands.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with your elbow rather than hands.
- Encourage your children to follow these best practices for health and wellness.

We will continue to provide updates as we learn more throughout this week, and please know that considerations about how best to keep students, families, and staff healthy and informed are guiding our work in this very dynamic situation. By working together, we will be a stronger, more united school community.

Sincerely,

The District Superintendents of Rockland County Schools:

*Mary Jean Marsico, Ed. D.
Chief Operating Officer, Rockland BOCES*

*Martin Cox, Ed.D
Superintendent, Clarkstown
Central School District*

*Kevin McCahill, Ed. D.
Superintendent, Nanuet Union
Free School District*

*Marco Pochintesta, Ed.D.
Superintendent, Pearl River Union
Free School District*

*Lisa Weber
Acting Superintendent, Suffern
Central School District*

*Ileana Eckert
Superintendent, North Rockland
Central School District*

*James Montesano, Ed. D.
Superintendent, Nyack Union
Free School District*

*Robert Pritchard, Ed. D.
Superintendent, South Orangetown
Central School District*

*Deborah Wortham, Ed. D.
Superintendent, East Ramapo
Central School District*

JJM:ld