



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

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James Montesano, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

March 5, 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. At 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.

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 at school ***MUST be picked up promptly.***
- In the event that a parent or guardian cannot pick up a student exhibiting signs of an illness, ***ambulance transportation will be obtained.***
- 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James J. Montesano', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

James J. Montesano
Superintendent, Nyack Public Schools