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POCANTICO HILLS CENTRAL SCHOOL

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March 7, 2020

Dear Pocantico Hills Families,

As you are aware, the District has been in constant contact with the New York State Department of Health (DOH) and other agencies, regarding the novel coronavirus, COVID-19. This issue evolves daily, and it is vital that we have the most current information on which to base our actions.

Late Friday afternoon, the District was notified by the Southern Westchester BOCES that an independent consultant used by the District had consented to self-quarantine through Monday, March 9, as a strictly precautionary measure. This was due to the consultant's contact approximately two weeks ago with a student in another school who was a classmate of a child who later tested positive for coronavirus. **The student that the consultant worked with did not test positive for coronavirus and the consultant never came in contact with any individuals that tested positive.** The consultant was present in Pocantico Hills on two occasions after her visits to the impacted school. During her visits, she had limited contact with a small number of individuals and did not have direct contact with classrooms. We spoke with the consultant today and she states that she has no symptoms and plans to return to work on Tuesday.

Following this notification, we immediately reached out to the NYS/Westchester DOH and explained this scenario. Based upon this, they believe that there is NO public health risk as there was no direct contact with an infected case. As a result, they advised that **Pocantico Hills should continue to operate as usual.** They re-affirmed that if there is a risk to any members of our school community that they will contact us immediately. They also stated that they are receiving many such calls and appreciated the level of seriousness and caution with which we are handling this situation.

As I illustrated in the district updates, beyond the enhanced cleaning measures already instituted, the District is taking several further precautionary measures, including a deep cleaning and thorough disinfecting this weekend of all rooms, bathrooms, offices, common areas and buses. Our school nurse and administrators will monitor student and staff attendance and will be on the lookout for any symptomatic indications. The District's administrative team and I are closely monitoring this situation as it evolves and will communicate, as we have said that we will do, more information as soon as it becomes available and necessary.

Ultimately, this is the first of what could be many such situations which we will have to examine and act upon. We will always do so with the welfare of our students foremost in our minds and with direct guidance from the NYS/Westchester Department of Health.

We appreciate your help in keeping our school community healthy and safe and please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions.

Sincerely,
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