



LEARNING • ACHIEVEMENT • GROWTH • DIRECTION



POCANTICO HILLS CENTRAL SCHOOL

599 Bedford Road • Sleepy Hollow, N.Y. 10591 • 914-631-2440 • fax 914-631-3280 • www.pocanticohills.org

February 27, 2020

Dear Pocantico Families,

Like many of you, we have been actively monitoring the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19). Recently, the Center for Disease Control, provided information and guidance surrounding the potential for an outbreak in the United States or our communities. While currently there are no known reported cases of coronavirus in Westchester or New York State, it is always better to be fully informed and prepared for any eventuality.

As an example of this, we have intensified our cleaning and disinfecting protocols in our classrooms, hallways and buses. All these areas are now disinfected and sanitized on a nightly basis, in addition to normal cleaning protocols. Additionally, our school nurse has been active in monitoring this situation and has sent out reminders to our teachers and staff regarding student hygiene, preventive measures and communication. Each classroom and hallway have a hand sanitizer dispenser which the children are encouraged to utilize and are re-filled nightly!

Listed below for your information are links to the Westchester County Department of Health, The Center for Disease Control, The New York State Department of Health and the New York State Education Department. These are all useful tools to help keep all of us fully informed and safe.

While there are currently no vaccines to protect against this virus, there are some active steps that we can all take to stay healthy. One of the main ways that we can all do our part is to keep our children home if they are not feeling well. The New York State Department of Health recommends the following ways to minimize the spread of all respiratory viruses, including COVID-19:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing. If you use a tissue, throw it in the trash.
- Routinely clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Check CDC for travel advisory updates.

If you recently traveled outside of the United States and feel sick with fever, cough or have trouble breathing; OR you develop symptoms within 14 days of travel, you should:

- Seek medical care right away. Call ahead and tell them about your travel and symptoms.
- Avoid contact with others.

- Stay home, except for seeking medical care.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing.
- Wash hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Contact your local health department.

This is a rapidly changing situation and as a district we will continue to monitor this issue and keep you as fully updated as possible. Among other items, we are actively discussing and formulating plans to ensure a continuity of educational services if we must close schools for a prolonged period of time. Regionally, schools are working with both their local Health Departments and the State Education Department to ensure that our information is current and our responses appropriate.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at 914-631-2440 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Rich Go POCO!

Rich

<https://health.westchestergov.com/images/stories/CORNER/SchoolAdmCoronavirusFeb20.pdf>

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/sss/documents/CoronavirusParentLetter2-5-20.pdf>

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public>

NYSDOH's dedicated COVID-19 website at

<https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus/>

New York State Center for School Health website at www.schoolhealthny.com

