



Remsenburg - Speonk U.F.S.D.

11 Mill Road • P.O. Box 900 • Remsenburg, New York 11960 • (631) 325-0203

Fax (631) 325-8439 • www.rsufsd.weebly.com

DLS:345

March 4, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian:

While the Remsenburg-Speonk School District does not have a confirmed case of COVID-19, caused by the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) in our schools, we are aware of concerns in the community about the spread of this relatively new virus and are taking every possible precaution to keep it out of our school.

The district is closely monitoring this fluid situation and following guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), Suffolk County Department of Health and the New York State Education Department. I have attended meetings with both the New York State Department of Health, as well as the Suffolk County Department of Health.

As of this writing, there are six confirmed cases in New York State and ZERO cases on Long Island. COVID-19 is not actively circulating in New York state at this time. If the district becomes aware that a student or staff member is diagnosed with COVID-19, it will immediately notify staff and parents/guardians, as well as county health officials, of the diagnosis. If a student or staff member shows respiratory symptoms, we will follow our current practices for handling respiratory illnesses, subject to any additional guidance forthcoming.

The district has infectious disease protocols in place and has been taking steps. Our custodial team is constantly diligent about cleaning and disinfecting the school. At this time, we have enhanced this practice and are disinfecting desk tops, light switches, keyboards, surface areas, etc., even more than usual, in order to minimize the spread of viruses and illness.

State and county officials are recommending that students, staff and community members take the following steps in order to minimize the spread of all respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Remind children that they need to wash thoroughly. If they sing the "Happy Birthday" song twice, they will have done so. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Heavily soiled hands should be washed.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Teach your child not to cough or sneeze into their hands. Coughing into your sleeve allows droplets to be caught instead of spreading them.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

News stories related to this issue could be creating anxiety for our children. Some of our students have expressed concerns. The National Association of School Nurses and the National Association of School Psychologists have jointly created guidance for parents that could be of interest to you. It is attached to this document for your reference. If your child is struggling and needs support, please contact our School Psychologist, Mrs. Ferone.

If you or a family member begin showing symptoms of a respiratory disease (shortness of breath, cough, and a fever) and suspect it may be COVID-19, please contact your healthcare provider. Before going to your healthcare provider's office, inform them that a case of COVID-19 is suspected, and follow their advice. Local health departments will contact schools if a suspected or known COVID-19 case emerges. We are prepared to work with any families who are impacted.

Families are also encouraged to follow the CDC's information for travel, available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>. For more information, consider consulting these additional resources:

- Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

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

- Travel: Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/faqs.html>

- COVID-19: What is Stigma and What Causes It?

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fstigma-faq.html

- Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) - Frequently Asked Questions - Prevention

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html#prevention>

- Prevention, Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/prevention-treatment.html>

In addition, New York has established a Novel Coronavirus Hotline, 1-888-364-3065, which can provide additional information, answer questions or concerns about travel, and symptoms. The district will continue to share information as it becomes available and will closely monitor this situation. Please know that the health and safety of our students and staff is always our highest priority. We will remain vigilant in our efforts to help prevent the spread of this illness.

Sincerely,

Denise Lindsay Sullivan
Superintendent of Schools