



**EAST ORANGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

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Dr. Kevin R. West  
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**Assistant Superintendent**

Ms. Anita Champagne

**Assistant Superintendent**

Dr. Deborah M. Harvest

March 6, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians and Community Members,

The health and welfare of our students and staff will always remain a top priority of the East Orange School District, and maintaining a safe and nurturing learning environment is a responsibility we all share. As such, we are closely monitoring all CDC (Center for Disease Control) alerts relative to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), as well as guidance from the New Jersey Department of Education and the New Jersey Department of Health.

COVID-2019 is a respiratory infection caused by a novel (new) virus, similar to influenza. Anytime a new virus is introduced, it becomes an immediate public health concern because it can be unpredictable since humans do not have immunity to it. At this time there have been no reported cases of the coronavirus in the City of East Orange, per local health officials. However, information is continually being changed and updated.

As reported, those who have become infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 experience symptoms like fever, cough and shortness of breath, ranging from mild to severe, much like other respiratory illness including influenza, which affects millions of people around the United States each year.

Here are some precautions that our schools are taking to keep our children healthy:

- Nurses are visiting the classrooms regularly to discuss good hygiene with students.
- Custodians have amplified disinfecting classrooms, bathrooms, door knobs and railings.
- Disinfectant dispensers are assured to be filled, and students and staff are encouraged to use regularly.
- Telephones, especially those used by students and staff, are disinfected frequently.
- Student desks are separated into traditional rows so that students are not on top of one another.
- Buses are being cleaned and sanitized as often as possible.

Additionally, we are encouraging you, as well as our students, to apply the following into daily practice:

*"Developing Leaders One Student at a Time"*

- Prevent the spread of germs by covering coughs and sneezes into your sleeve or with a tissue (using proper disposal), not your hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds. Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Routinely clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Stay home if you are sick, keep your children home when they are sick, and avoid those who are sick.
- Children should not return to school unless they have been fever-free without medication for 24 hours.

For more information, please feel free to call the New Jersey Department of Health's COVID-19 24 hour call center: (800) 222-1222.

Additionally, the following websites provide useful and factual information on the current status of COVID-19:

The Center for Disease Control: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

The New Jersey Department of Health: <https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/ncov.shtml>

As the health and safety of our schools is a collective effort from all members of our community, we thank you for your cooperation in ensuring this remains a top priority.

Sincerely,

Senior Cabinet

  
Ms. Anita Champagne  
Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum Services

Dr. Deborah M. Harvest  
Assistant Superintendent for Operations