



March 2, 2020

Dear Washington Township Families,

The Washington Township School District is committed to ensuring the health and safety of students and staff in our buildings. The District is actively monitoring the recommendations and implementing any requirements provided by the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH), as well as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), for the prevention of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). The following are preventative measures that we are taking:

- Alcohol-based hand sanitizers are located throughout all district buildings and will continue to be replenished.
- The Operations Department will continue to clean and disinfect district buildings daily (including all “high-touch” surfaces) as part of ongoing custodial services.
- District administration will review and implement appropriate recommendations from local, state, and federal entities (including the NJDOH and CDC) regarding the Coronavirus.
- Additional time will be provided to custodial staff above and beyond the normal cleaning protocol, as needed.
- School nurses will continue to screen for flu-like symptoms.
- Supplemental weekly disinfecting of our bus fleet will be provided in addition to daily cleaning.

In order to assist us in preventing the spread of any virus, including the Coronavirus, we urge all families to:

- Notify administration if your child has traveled to China in the last 14 days;
- Frequently wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds;
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with your hands;
- Sneeze into a tissue or sleeve instead of your hands; and
- Keep your child(ren) home if he/she is sick.

Should there be a confirmed case of the Coronavirus, the District will:

- Notify the NJDOH;
- Comply with all NJDOH and CDC requirements;
- Continue compliance with our policies and regulations on communicable diseases and hygienic management;
- Notify the community of the affirmed case; and
- Sanitize and clean possibly affected areas per the instructions of the NJDOH.

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Updated information will be shared and posted on the District website as it becomes available. If you would like additional information, please follow this [link](#) to the NJDOH website and review the flier below.

I appreciate your collaboration and support in keeping our students and staff as safe and healthy as possible.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph N. Bollendorf", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joseph N. Bollendorf  
Superintendent

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# CORONAVIRUS

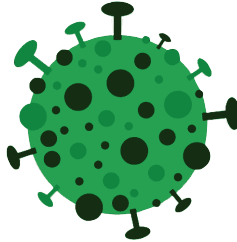


## What is it?

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that are common in many different species of animals, including camels, cattle, cats, and bats. Rarely, animal coronaviruses can infect people and then spread between people.

SARS-CoV-2, or the disease Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19), was deemed a public health emergency of international concern on January 30, 2020.

Illnesses can range from mild to severe to death, and it can be spread through person-to-person contact. Symptoms include fever, cough, and shortness of breath.



## How does it Spread?

The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person:

- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
- Through respiratory droplets from a cough or sneezes. Droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.

It may be possible to contract COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching your own mouth, nose, or possibly eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads. Some spread might be possible prior to experiencing symptoms.

COVID-19 seems to spread easily and sustainably.

## How Do You Prevent it?

There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19. The best way to prevent the illness is to avoid exposure. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory disease, including:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Follow the CDC's recommendation for using a facemask:
  - Those who are well should not wear a mask to protect themselves from COVID-19
  - Facemasks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
  - If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

## What is our District Doing to Prevent Viruses?

- Requesting staff or students who have traveled to China in the last 14 days to notify administration.
- Encouraging staff and students to wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Asking students and staff to avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth with hands.
- Alcohol-based hand sanitizers are located throughout each school building and will continue to be replenished.
- Instructing staff and students to stay home when they are sick.
- Asking staff and students to sneeze into their elbow instead of their hands.
- Cleaning and disinfecting schools daily (including all surfaces people touch) as part of ongoing custodial services in the school, following recommendations from local, state, and federal entities regarding the Coronavirus.
- Providing additional time to custodial staff above and beyond the normal cleaning protocol, as needed.
- Supplementing daily bus cleaning with more extensive, weekly disinfecting.
- Our nurses are continuing to screen for flu-like symptoms.
- Continuing to monitor the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) and CDC information and complying with all requirements.

## If We Have a Confirmed Case ...

- The Washington Township School District will comply with all NJDOH and CDC requirements.
- School nurses will notify administration and the NJDOH.
- District will immediately follow our policy and regulation on communicable diseases and hygienic management.
- District will notify the community of the affirmed case.
- District staff will sanitize and clean per the instructions of the NJDOH.

## Key Links for More Information

- **NJDOH COVID-19 Information**  
<https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/ncov.shtml>
- **NJDOH School Health Information**  
<http://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/schoolhealth.shtml>
- **CDC COVID-19 Information**  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>