



# Newark Board of Education

Roger León, Superintendent

Where Passion Meets Progress

March 5, 2020

Dear Newark School Community,

I am writing to inform you of steps we are taking with regard to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). It is important to note that we do not have concerns about the presence of the coronavirus in our schools at this time. However, we want to take this opportunity to share the precautionary actions we have been taking for the health and safety of our students, staff, and all who enter our schools.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is working to discover the exact mechanism of spread from person to person of this new form of the coronavirus. The one area that is certain is that travel to countries where the illness is prevalent is not recommended. The CDC will update this guidance as needed and as additional information becomes available. I recommend that you follow the CDC website periodically for updated guidance; <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.

We are in contact with the Newark Health Department and the New Jersey Department of Health, and will continue to adhere to the best practices which they recommend. In so doing, school nurses have begun to review precautions with students, such as properly washing their hands, correctly covering a cough, and disposing of used tissues. In addition, our custodial staff is proactively intensifying the sanitizing of high contact surfaces to reduce the possibility of environmental cross-contamination.

Here are a few everyday preventative actions to help keep you and our community healthy:

- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- If no tissue is available, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve or elbow, not your hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid contact with people who are sick.
- If you are sick, stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone without fever reducing medications.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that are frequently touched.

If we learn of further developments that directly impact us in Newark, I will reach out to you again.

Sincerely,

Roger León  
Superintendent