

Rosa L. Diaz
Superintendent

732-541-8960, Ext. 6001
rdiaz@carteretschools.org



BOARD OFFICE
599 Roosevelt Avenue
Carteret, NJ 07008
Phone: 732-541-8960
Fax: 732-541-0433
www.carteretschools.org

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Dear Parents, Guardians, Faculty, and Staff:

Carteret Public Schools continues to work towards ensuring our students are provided a safe, clean and healthy learning environment where they may thrive. Although we have no confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) in Carteret or anywhere in New Jersey, the District is prepared with an emergency plan for such an event. District Policy 8451, Control of Communicable Disease, provides guidance and compliance measures so that all district decisions and actions are in line with New Jersey Department of Health and Middlesex County Board of Health directives and regulations.

Carteret Public Schools is monitoring all updates from local, state and federal health agencies regarding viral outbreaks, including the coronavirus. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has determined that the immediate risk to the American public from the coronavirus is low at this time. For the latest information, visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/index.html>

The following steps are recommended by the CDC to protect yourself and your family from viral illnesses, including the Coronavirus:

- Wash your hands! Frequent hand-washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds is one of the simplest — and most effective ways to prevent the spread of germs. Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available. Remind your child to wash his or her hands:
 - Before eating food
 - After using the toilet
 - After blowing his or her nose, coughing, or sneezing
- Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze. Teach your child to cough or sneeze into a tissue — then toss it. If it isn't possible to reach a tissue in time, remind your child to cough or sneeze into the crook of his or her arm.
- Keep your hands away from your eyes, nose and mouth. Remind your child that germs spread this way.
- Stay home if you are sick, especially with a fever.
- Avoid people who are sick. When possible, help or encourage your child to avoid close contact with anyone who is sick.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects.

If you plan to travel abroad, be sure all immunizations, including the flu vaccine, are up to date.

Please review the CDC travel advisory prior to traveling: <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2020/s0128-travelers-avoid-china.html>

Students who are ill with respiratory symptoms, flu-like illness, or diarrhea/vomiting should stay home for 24 hours fever free or without diarrhea/vomiting. Please report your child's absence and such symptoms to your school nurse and contact your child's primary health care provider.

The New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) does not recommend school closure for outbreaks of infectious disease; however, in the event this does occur, district administration will consider plans that include curating online resources for student instruction, best practices for maintaining district operations and facilities in light of possible contagions, and keeping open lines of communication with students, parents, faculty, and staff. We intend to closely monitor the situation and make any decision regarding school closures in partnership with the Middlesex County Board of Health, the Carteret Borough Health Department, and the Office of Emergency Management.

All updates regarding the coronavirus (COVID-19) will be posted on the district website for your review. I have included several resources should you wish to learn more about the coronavirus (COVID-19).

Center for Disease Control (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/index.html>

New Jersey Department of Health Hotline:1-800-222-1222

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation in keeping our school district safe and healthy.