



March 2, 2020

Dear Families,

This week the Center for Disease Control (CDC) announced that Americans should start preparing for the possibility that the coronavirus, officially named COVID-19, will spread to communities in the United States.

At this time, there is one confirmed case in New York City and none in the rest of the state; the risk to our community is low. However, it is important to listen to the facts and not respond to fear, which is why we are monitoring the matter with all due diligence. We have no plans to close the school; however, we will follow the direction of the public health experts should they make that determination.

There is currently no vaccine available to protect against this virus. The New York State Department of Health (DOH) recommends the following ways to minimize the spread of all respiratory viruses, including 2019-nCoV:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing. If you use a tissue, throw it in the trash.
- Routinely clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Parents can stay up to date on the most recent COVID-19 developments through the local, state and federal health agencies. To that end, below are some informational links you may be interested in:

Monroe County Health Department's website includes information about COVID-19 at this link:

- <https://www2.monroecounty.gov/health-index.php>

New York State has established a Novel Coronavirus Hotline at (888) 364-3065 and an informational website at this link:

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

The CDC has posted guidance and information about travel and facts about COVID-19 at these links below:

- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/share-facts-stop-fear.html>
- [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html?deliveryName=USCDC\\_2067-DM20785](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html?deliveryName=USCDC_2067-DM20785)

Sincerely,

Antony A.L. McLetchie  
Superintendent/CEO