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Dear School Community Member,

You are no doubt aware of reports concerning Coronavirus disease 19 (COVID-19), which has spread throughout China and to 31 other countries and territories, including the United States. Carteret Public Schools is preparing for the possibility that the disease could make its way to our area.

The District already has many protocols in place due to cold and flu season, which we will continue to implement and can increase, should that be warranted. In addition, the District has an Emergency Operation Plan that is aligned with the best practices specified by FEMA.

What the District is Doing:

- Communication and Monitoring: At this time of year, the Superintendent's office monitors student illness reports, trends and absenteeism and is in frequent contact with the Office of Public Health.
- We monitor information from the NJ Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). These agencies let us know when cases of certain communicable diseases are confirmed, and issue guidelines for action and communications.
- Finally, we ask families to let us know if household members have recently returned from places where travel warnings have been issued due to COVID-19. And that all students currently in school, who have returned from impacted countries, are cleared by the School Nurse before reentry to classrooms.

Planning for Contingencies: The Emergency Response Team is meeting regularly to share information from governmental health officials and to plan responses. So far, work has begun to:

- Ensure the District has adequate cleaning and disinfecting supplies
- Plan how classes could be held using technology, if school closures are warranted
- Create grade-level and content area plans for continuing education for all students
- Determine how best to communicate timely and accurate information to staff and families

Please note an abbreviated session has been scheduled for Thursday, March 12, 2020 in order to allow the district to continue to plan for a potential closure. All aftercare and afterschool program will be canceled.

Cleaning: As always, the custodial staff and nurses work together to try to limit the spread of diseases whenever possible. Although most diseases are not typically spread through inanimate objects, the custodial staff provides extra cleaning attention to schools during times of increased illness. Furthermore, additional hand-sanitizing supplies have been purchased and shared throughout the schools

Please continue to visit our district website to receive updates and obtain additional information.

Sincerely,

Rosa Díaz