

## Coronavirus Update – March 2, 2020



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Dear Croton-Harmon Families,

I am writing to follow up on the K-12 alert that was sent out on February 10th. In this message I shared the [joint guidance letter](#) from the New York State Department of Health and the New York State Education Department regarding the 2019 Novel Coronavirus.

There is so much in the news which can certainly be alarming to our students. In Croton-Harmon, our instructional day continues without interruption while we monitor the situation through our weekly webinars with the New York State Department of Health, discussions with our district chief medical officer, Dr. Mier, and communications from the [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#). I will also continue to provide you with periodic updates.

Last week I met with principals and our school nurses where we reviewed procedures and protocols. As the recent NYS Department of Health webinar stressed, "There is a lot we can do to stop the spread of this and other respiratory viruses, such as,

- 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 touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who 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
- **Stay home when you are sick.**"

I have highlighted the "stay home when you are sick," as this could really help to reduce the spread of any virus. I need to also reiterate that we are actively in "flu" season too. The normal influenza virus is active in the area, so good hand washing protocols and not coming to school when you are sick will help. I understand that this puts a stress on a family, but it is so necessary.

In terms of our schools, our Buildings & Grounds team have both the normal and flu season cleaning protocols in full swing. These efforts will certainly continue.

Should you have any questions, certainly contact your family physician and of course discuss any issues with our incredible nursing staff.

Should you want additional information, the following websites are quite informative: [NYS Department of Health](#), [Centers for Disease Control](#), [World Health Organization](#)

In closing, our efforts to communicate regularly will continue so that you can stay informed and partner in helping our students manage this situation.

Yours in **Mission Possible**,

Dr. Deborah O'Connell



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