



South Amboy Public Schools
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Superintendent

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Dear Parents/Guardians:

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. South Amboy 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 will increase, as needed. 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, the Superintendent's office monitors student illness reports, trends and absenteeism and is in frequent contact with the Office of Public Health and the Office of Emergency Management.

- 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 COVID-19 has been confirmed, and that all students who have returned from impacted countries, are cleared by the School Nurse before reentry to classrooms.

Planning for Contingencies: The District Pandemic 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 (**a short session for students has been scheduled for Wednesday, March 11th in order to give teachers the time to collaborate on emergency plans in case of school closure.**)
- Determine how best to communicate timely and accurate information to staff and families
- Plan on how to continue lunch meals for Free and Reduced students during a closure

Cleaning: As always, the custodial staff and nurses work together to limit the spread of diseases throughout the schools. 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 stations have been purchased and installed throughout the schools, and teachers continually remind students of the basic preventative measures.

As always, should you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school principals or nurses.

Sincerely,

Jorge E. Diaz
Superintendent of Schools