



# STAFFORD TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

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*"BUILDING A BETTER WORLD ONE STUDENT AT A TIME"*

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Dear Parents/Guardians and Staff,

The New Jersey Department of Health is reporting high levels of influenza throughout the State. Additionally, parents/guardians may have concerns about the outbreak of the 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV). We would like to take this opportunity to communicate health information and standard district protocols and to address possible parent/guardian concerns.

To date, there is no identified risk of 2019-nCoV to the Stafford Township School District community. Please note, as per NJ Department of Health guidelines, any student who has returned from China since January 19 should contact their school nurse immediately. We continue to monitor the situation closely and receive regular updates from the NJ Department of Education and the Ocean County Health Department. The following links provide information about 2019-nCoV and include resources you may wish to review:

[NJ Department of Health's 2019-nCoV webpage](#)  
[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

## **District Communication with State and Federal Health Agencies**

In any health-related event within our schools, the administration promptly communicates with local health agencies to assess and monitor the school environment. If there is ever a serious problem, such as an escalation in the spread of 2019-nCoV, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and local health agencies will contact our entire community and partner with school administration to implement safety procedures and communication protocols.

## **District Cleaning Protocols**

As we have done every winter during flu season, the Stafford Township School District has enacted precautionary cleaning protocols. For example, at the end of each day, all door knobs, desks, bathroom fixtures, and other frequently shared items are disinfected. Additionally, our nurses and administration track student health data and absenteeism on a regular basis so that we can identify health patterns of our student body and faculty. We will continue our cleaning protocols and health data tracking throughout the flu season.

## Recommended Hygiene Practices

To minimize the spread of respiratory viruses, including influenza and coronavirus, the CDC recommends the following:

- Keep children home when they are sick, especially if they present with fever (above 100 degrees Fahrenheit, or 37.7 C). Children should be fever-free (without fever-reducing medication) for at least 24 hours before returning to school.
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.
- 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 using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

The district will remain vigilant in ensuring our buildings are sanitized. In the event our community is affected by this outbreak, we will make every effort to be prepared via tele-schooling and social distancing measures as recommended by the CDC in conjunction with the Ocean County Health Department. As always, your child's health and safety is our first priority and we will continue to keep you updated as needed.

Very truly yours,



George J. Chidiac  
Superintendent of Schools