

CLOSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

340 Homans Avenue • Closter, NJ 07624



201-768-3001, ext. 41116
Fax: 201-768-1903

Email: McHaleV@nvnet.org
Website: www.closterschools.org

Vincent McHale
Superintendent

February 26, 2020

Dear Parents,

The health of our students and staff is a top priority. It is for that reason I am reaching out to you following yesterday's announcement from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that schools should be prepared if there is a spread of the Coronavirus in the United States. At this time, however, the CDC has posted on their website that "this virus is NOT currently spreading in the community in the United States." I want to let you know our prevention measures.

Based on CDC guidance, I am asking that families with a child who has traveled within the past two weeks to an area of the world highly impacted by the Coronavirus (China, South Korea, Italy, Iran, and Japan) to please contact the principal or school nurse prior to returning to school to discuss the potential self-quarantine protocols. (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/risk-assessment.html#table-risk-management>)

It is essential that we work together to reduce the risk of spreading any illness in our schools. To that end, be assured that our custodial staff is following the procedures recommended by the New Jersey Department of Health to clean and disinfect desks, countertops, doorknobs, faucet handles, phones and toys. They are using an industrial strength cleaner that disinfects against many known pathogens, including the Coronavirus.

The school nurses will be sharing with students and staff some important practices to avoid respiratory illnesses:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick;
- Cover your sneeze or cough with a tissue and throw the tissue in the trash;
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth;
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces;
- Stay at home when you are sick (except to get medical care); and
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds.

As a district, it is our goal to maintain a healthy environment in both of our schools. I will be monitoring the Coronavirus situation closely. Please be assured that we will follow all recommendations of the CDC and the New Jersey Department of Health.

Sincerely,

Vincent McHale

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Superintendent of Schools