

BERNARDS TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Dear Parent/Guardian:

Our district has been continuing to monitor the situation with the novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and is leaning on the Somerset County Department of Health (SCDOH) for guidance. Although SCDOH reports that there are no cases of COVID-19 in New Jersey, the CDC notes, "More cases are likely to be identified in the coming days, including more cases in the United States. It's also likely that person-to-person spread will continue to occur, including in the United States." Consequently, we must remain vigilant.

Our custodial staff is continuing with extra cleaning regimens and we are working with our local health department, school nurses and district physician to make the best decisions for the health of our students. As the situation with COVID-19 continues to evolve, we will remain in close communication with local and state officials to take any measures deemed necessary to protect the safety and well-being of our students. Locally, we are working on plans for how we can support students and maintain instruction should the virus spread to the point of high student absence or possible school closures. We ask for your support in following the CDC recommendations below. Additionally, if you or your child is returning from international travel, contact your school nurse *before* sending your child back to school.

CDC Recommendations to Help Prevent Spreading of Respiratory Disease

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you 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.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

Our reference resources include the following (each hyperlinked to their respective COVID-19 webpage):

[Somerset County Department of Health](#)(SCDOH)
[Center for Disease Control](#)(CDC)

[New Jersey Department of Health](#)(NJDOH)
[World Health Organization](#)(WHO)

The above websites have an enormous amount of information. Highlighting a few pieces, you might check out these specific subpages: [SCDOH February 24th Press Release](#), [CDC Situation Summary of February 27th](#), and finally [Share Facts, Not Fear](#). The Share Facts, Not Fear page is something I would ask you to take some extra time reviewing with your children. It explains that being of Asian descent does not increase the chance of getting or spreading COVID-19 and it has practical health care steps we can all take. We appreciate your support and will maintain regular communication with you as additional information about the impact of COVID-19 becomes available.

Sincerely,



Nick Markarian