

Hanover Township Public Schools

61 Highland Avenue
Whippany, New Jersey 07981

Michael J. Wasko
Superintendent of Schools

Telephone: (973) 515-2404
Fax: (973) 540-1023

March 6, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians and Staff:

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an update regarding recent developments pertaining to the possible spread of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). Over the past week, I have participated in meetings and conference calls with area superintendents; state-wide officials including Governor Murphy, the Commissioner of Health, the Commissioner of Education; local and county officials; as well as district administrators and supervisors. Based on these conversations and our district's ongoing preparations, I would like to share the following information with you:

- We will continue to remain in close contact with our local Departments of Health in developing procedures. Our health officials continue to emphasize the importance of healthy habits to reduce the transmission of illness. They include:
 - Cover mouth and nose when sneezing or coughing (sneeze into elbow)
 - Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth.
 - Wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after coughing or sneezing and before eating.
 - Keep your children home when they are sick. Children should not return to school unless they have been fever-free without medication for at least 24 hours.
 - Avoid people who are sick.
 - Clean and disinfect frequently-touched surfaces and objects.
 - If your child or family member does not feel well, please contact your physician or healthcare provider as soon as possible.
- Please prepare for the possibility that our schools could close in sudden fashion. Please understand that if this occurs, the District may not be able to bring staff and/or students into the buildings to retrieve materials and/or personal belongings.
- On Thursday, the NJDOE provided guidance that, in the instance that the NJ Department of Health requires the closing of schools due to a public health-related issue, they will allow for virtual instruction to take place. Our District Administrative Team has been proactively working on a plan to provide instruction to students. Through the use of PowerSchool, Google Apps for Education, Google Classroom, and other web-based programs, teachers will be in a position to communicate and provide instruction to students in a digital and/or electronic format. As circumstances evolve, our Flexible Instructional Day/Digital Learning Plan will be modified as needed.
- If you **DO NOT** have access to an electronic device for student education use, please complete this [Electronic Device Survey](#).
- The District Administrative Team will continue to monitor upcoming field trips set to take place over the next few months and will make determinations about them as the situation evolves.
- Our District custodial staff will continue to clean and disinfect our buildings, offices, and classrooms focusing on high-traffic areas and sanitizing door knobs/handles/release bars, main entrance/exit doors, etc.

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Additional information and valuable resources regarding COVID-19 can be found by clicking on the following links:

- Center for Disease Control (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- New Jersey Department of Health: <https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/ncov.shtml>
- Morris County Office of Health Management: <https://health.morriscountynj.gov/>
- Township of Hanover: <https://www.hanovertownship.com/>

Thank you for your patience and cooperation as we navigate through an unusual set of circumstances. Please feel free to contact me directly with any questions and/or concerns.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Wasko

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