

# Mendham Township School District

18 West Main Street - Post Office Box 510  
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February 28, 2020

To the Mendham Township School District Community,

The well-being of our students and staff remains the top priority of the Mendham Township School District as we continue to actively monitor the outbreak of COVID-19 (novel [coronavirus](#)). As you may know, recent information released by the Centers for Disease Control states more cases of coronavirus disease 2019, now abbreviated COVID-19, "are likely to be identified in the coming days, including more cases in the United States." I would like to share the steps the district is taking to ensure the safety of our students and staff.

While there are no confirmed cases of the COVID-19 in Mendham, we have policies in place to guide the district through these types of circumstances. District Policy 8451 - Control of Communicable Disease outlines clear procedures and steps that we follow in any infectious situation. District Policy 8451 further requires that we comply with all regulations of the New Jersey Department of Health and the Morris County Board of Health offices governing the prevention, control, and reporting of communicable disease. Although these protocols are in place, we recognize this could be an unprecedented situation which may call for additional collaboration and compliance with the directives from local and state agencies. As recommended by the CDC, we are in the process of making preparations for the possibility that a spread of the virus in the U.S. may impact school attendance, and/or require us to close schools. We are working with our Board, administrators and technology department to plan for the continuation of instruction for our students should such a situation occur. We are continuing to maintain enhanced daily cleaning and sanitizing at all of our schools. All schools have also been provided with hand sanitizer dispensers that contain an alcohol-free foaming product that is 99% effective against common disease-causing organisms. While handwashing with soap and water is always preferred to the use of sanitizers, students should be reminded to use the school-provided sanitizers when hand washing is not available.

We will continue to be in contact with local and state health departments, and once we have further guidance, we will send it out through the Honeywell system and our district website. According to the CDC, "While the immediate risk of this new virus to the American public is believed to be low at this time, everyone can do their part to help us respond to this emerging public health threat." Our school nurses monitor student and staff absences daily and report any flu-like symptoms to the health department. Staff members and families are reminded to take precautions and practice proper respiratory hygiene. Please remember the steps we take every day to help prevent any respiratory illness:

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds or use an hand sanitizer.
- Cover coughs and sneezes.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home if you are feeling sick.

As situations evolve, we are prepared to comply with the directions from the state and local health agencies and make any adjustments, if needed. The Department of Health has a coronavirus webpage that is updated whenever CDC posts additional guidance: <https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/ncov.shtml>. The NJ Department of Health also operates a toll-free information line, 1-800-222-1222.

Thank you,

Salvatore M. Constantino, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools