



Orange Township Public Schools

Gerald Fitzhugh, II, Ed.D
Office of the Superintendent



March 4, 2020

Good Day Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers,

As you are aware, there have been reports regarding the Coronavirus in the news as of late. The health, safety, and well being of our school community is the top priority of the Board of Education, administration, faculty, and staff of the Orange Township Public School District. The district has policies in place to address the well being of all students and staff. Policy 8451 addresses the Control of Communicable Disease. As a district, we are monitoring the alerts from the New Jersey Department of Education, New Jersey Department of Health, and the Center for Disease Control. Due to the media coverage as it relates the Coronavirus (COVID-19); we have been in communication with the County Department of Health as well as City Department of Health and the County Superintendent in order to discuss best practices in handling communicable diseases and developing plans in the event that we are exposed to the virus.

New information regarding communicable diseases was sent to districts throughout the state, specifically related to the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Our district has always taken preventive measures even more so during the cold and flu seasons. We have not only continued our current practices, but additionally, have increased our sanitizing measures according to the CDC guidelines. With that being said, increased measures included but are not limited to: sanitizing all classrooms, offices, hallways, doorknobs, food preparation areas, and other touchpoints. To add, our food service vendor Chartwells is in line with our custodial procedures as it relates to the cleaning of highly touched surfaces as well as their disinfection frequency. I will like to add that all school nurses sent communication to the staff regarding preventative measures during the flu and cold seasons. During faculty meetings, nurses will continue to reiterate the importance of being preventative as well as modeling the proper fashion in hand washing. It is imperative that we continue to educate accordingly.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. The systems can be mild to severe, like a cold, including sneezing, congestion, body aches, and fever. The best way to prevent COVID-19, as well as the flu is by taking precautionary measures. We ask that you assist us in the following in order to be proactive regarding ensuring continued health and safety:

- **Avoid touching the nose, mouth, and eyes**
- **Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or sleeve, not your hands**
- **Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available (soap and water are the recommended measure)**
- **Avoid contact with those that are sick**
- **Pick up your child within 30 minutes if they are deemed to be sick as specified by the school nurse**
- **Report if you plan to travel overseas over the next several months to the school (this again allows us as a district to be proactive instead of reactive)**

I want to thank you for your continued support of the Orange Township Public School District. Again, we are committed to the health and safety of all stakeholders that enter our doors. On the district website (www.orange.k12.nj.us), posted (Under District News and Announcements) is the most current information as it relates to the Coronavirus as well as preventative measures. We will continue to update the district website accordingly as more information comes available.

For additional information you are encouraged to visit the New Jersey Department of Health Website:
https://www.state.nj.health/ed/topics/covid2019_resources.shtml

Educationally yours,

Gerald Fitzhugh, II, Ed.D.

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Superintendent of Schools