



March 3, 2020

Dear Stanley G. Falk School Families,

While the Stanley G. Falk School does not have any confirmed cases of COVID-19, caused by the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) in our schools, there is an awareness of the concerns in the community about the spread of this relatively new virus.

The School is monitoring the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) situation carefully and following guidance provided by the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), the Erie County Department of Health and the New York State Education Department.

The Stanley G. Falk School has infectious disease protocols in place and will be increasing current efforts, such as cleaning and disinfecting throughout the School to minimize the spread of viruses and a variety of other illnesses.

The following are steps that staff, students and community members can take to minimize the spread of respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19, according to the New York State Education Department:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your face - eyes, nose and mouth.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- **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.

If you or a family member begin showing symptoms of a respiratory disease and suspect it may be COVID-19, contact your healthcare provider. Before going to your healthcare provider's office, inform them that a case of the virus is suspected, and follow their advice.

Local health departments will contact schools if a suspected or known COVID-19 case emerges. Stanley G. Falk School is prepared to work with any affected families.

This is an emerging, rapidly evolving situation. Families are encouraged to keep up to date about this virus, its treatment and prevention by visiting or calling the following:

- CDC's dedicated COVID-19 website at <https://www.cdc.gov/nCoV>
- Erie County Department of Health at <http://www2.erie.gov/health/coronavirus>
- NY State Novel Coronavirus hotline at 1-888-364-3065

Please know that the health and safety of our students and school community is always the highest priority. We will remain vigilant in all efforts to help prevent the spread of this illness. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dawn F. Mirand
Superintendent

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