

WILLINGBORO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WILLINGBORO, NEW JERSEY 08046-2847



Ms. NADINE TRIBBETT
ACTING SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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March 12, 2020

Dear Willingboro School District Parents/Guardians, Staff, and Community:

I am aware of the heightened anxiety and concern that is present in our families and the wider community at this time regarding the possible spread of COVID-19 (Coronavirus). I want to assure you that as Acting Superintendent of Willingboro School District, I remain committed to providing you with information to help in planning and preparing for a potential impact of this nature.

In an effort to facilitate receiving the updated information from our District quickly we are providing information updates via the **Willingboro Public Schools Website Live Feed Tab**, the **Genesis Parent Portal** alerts as well as letters disseminated through the schools.

As the information surrounding the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak continues to evolve, the Willingboro School Board of Education, administration, faculty and support staff continue to monitor conditions and make contingency plans. Certainly, the spread of COVID-19 has us all concerned. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) continues to monitor the spread of the coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19), and we continue to work closely with the New Jersey Department of Health to monitor daily developments.

At this time, all school districts in New Jersey have been directed by NJ Department of Education and the Burlington County Health Department to prepare instructional plans in the event an extended school closure becomes necessary. Our administrators and teachers will be finalizing instructional plans for grades K-12 this week.

In the event that we must close our schools, please understand that a decision of this magnitude will be made in full cooperation with the Burlington County Department of Health. Our goal is to prepare for the continuity of instruction should we have to close our schools for an extended period due to the Coronavirus.

In an effort to inform, here is some general information that has been updated and provided via links by the aforementioned resources:

Symptoms

Symptoms of COVID-19 are similar to the common flu virus and include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

COVID-19 (Coronavirus) in New Jersey

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These symptoms may appear in as few as two days or as long as fourteen or more days after exposure. Reported illnesses have ranged from individuals with no symptom to becoming severely ill and dying.

How the Virus is Spread

The virus is spread just like the flu or a cold:

- Through the air by coughing or sneezing
- Close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands
- Touching an object or surface with the virus on it

How to Protect You and Your Family

The single best way to protect yourself and your loved ones is by washing your hands with soap and water for at least twenty seconds several times throughout the day.

Other ways to help prevent the spread of the illness include:

- Cover coughs or sneezes with your elbow. Do not use your hands!
- Use a 60% or higher alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Clean surfaces frequently, including countertops, light switches, cell phones, remotes and other frequently touched items.
- Contain: If you are sick, stay home until you feel better. Sick students and/or staff should not return to school until they are fever-free for a minimum of twenty-four hours without medication.

Actions the School District is Taking

Enhanced Cleaning Protocols

In order to minimize exposure of our students and staff, our cleaning and custodial staff are utilizing enhanced flu-season cleaning protocols which also eliminate the coronavirus.

Student and Staff Travel

Upon the recommendation of the Director of Health Department, all Burlington County Superintendents were advised to cancel all planned international travel out of the country for any students or staff.

School Closings

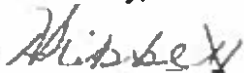
At the current time, all school district buildings are open and operating at normal capacity, however this is subject to change daily. At this time our school district will continue to operate unless a positive case or a confirmed presumptive specific exposure can be identified. It is then and only then that the Burlington County Health Department in conjunction with the New Jersey Department of Health will give a directive. The Guidelines are being updated daily and the communications related to school closures are subject to change daily.

I encourage you to prepare for a school closure which could potentially range from a single day in order to deep clean the school building to an extended duration to help mitigate the spread of any illness in our community. These closures, if warranted, could occur on short notice. Now is the time to create your family plan should some or all of our schools have to close.

I am hopeful that COVID-19 does not cause a health emergency in our area. However, I want to assure you that our school district is taking all precautions and is preparing to take any necessary actions, acting in conjunction with recommendations from our local and state authorities. Please know that I will continue to update you of any changes.

Thank you for your help in keeping our schools and community safe.

Sincerely,



Nadine Tribbett
Acting Superintendent
Willingboro Public Schools