

DELRAN TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

52 Hartford Rd., Delran NJ, 08075

"dedicated to nurturing a supportive, student-centered environment where all people are treated with dignity and respect"

March 6, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

On February 28, 2020 I reached out to the District community to share that the District has been monitoring the developing situation regarding Coronavirus. On behalf of the Delran Township Board of Education please be reassured that we have a dedicated Coronavirus Task Force that is examining each and every layer of this situation. There is nothing more important to the District than the wellness of its students and staff members.

From a workflow perspective, please understand that we coordinate our work and decision making processes with multiple entities: The Office of the Governor, Department of Health, Department of Education, the Board of Education as well as at the local government and public safety level. The wellness of all stakeholders remains the ultimate focus of the District.

Below, I offer an update of important elements regarding the Coronavirus threat.

Communication Plan

You will receive an update from the District every Friday by 8:00pm until communication is no longer necessary. Further, in the event that an emergent situation arises you will hear from the District once information is available.

New Jersey Department of Health Guidance

School or Social Event Cancellation

According to its most recent (March 4, 2020) guidance "...there is no need to cancel school or social events...There are no restrictions on public gatherings. Students should be reminded that part of good respiratory hygiene is staying home from events when they are ill. If COVID-19 is occurring in your community, public health may recommend modifying, postponing, or cancelling mass gatherings."

School Closure Possibility

According to the March 4, 2020 guidance issued by the New Jersey Department of Health, school closure is identified as a **potential strategy** within a particular community where a Coronavirus transmission has occurred.

In order for Delran Township Public Schools to close, the New Jersey Department of Health would have to **issue a directive**.

New Jersey Department of Education Guidance

The New Jersey Department of Education has advised each school district to begin to make arrangements should schools need to close for a period of time in order to continue educational services in an alternative location.

Should we close, the Board of Education will be prepared to **provide instructional services in an alternative setting as directed by the New Jersey Department of Education**. The District Coronavirus Task Force continues to examine the specifics regarding this matter and will advise in further communication on March 13, 2020.

Continuation of Healthy Practices

Ways that you can reduce the spread of viruses in our schools or community:

- Wash hands with soap and water (twice as long and twice as much as normal)
- Stay home when you are sick
- Teach your child the proper use of hand sanitizers
- Cover coughs and sneezes
- Keep children home when sick

Maintenance and Upkeep of Facilities

In order to prevent germs the following protocols take place multiple times per day:

- Clean and disinfect all desk tops, table tops, sinks, toilets and water fountains
- Wipe down and disinfect all touch points such as door knobs and panic hardware.
- If the school reports a high number of students out in a classroom, the district uses specialized disinfecting machines in that classroom that evening.

The District has daily coordination meetings with our custodial services provider in order to ensure seamless services and, additionally, to address any items that have risen to the level of concern from a wellness perspective.

Coordination with Delran Police Department and Office of Emergency Management

The District continues to coordinate all efforts with the Mayor Ken Paris, the Township Administrator Jeff Hatcher, Delran Township Police Chief Al Parente (and his administration) and the Office of Emergency Management in all areas related to public health and safety. Should any specific matters require communication from a health and safety perspective you will be provided with the information by the appropriate party.

Schools Trips

Pursuant to the New Jersey Department of Health, there have not been modifications or cancellations to any District sponsored trips.

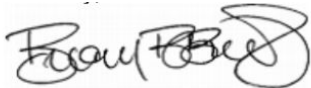
DHS Senior Trip

As parents and guardians you are required to arrive at your own decision whether or not you are choosing to send your child on the DHS Senior Trip. As I understand it parents will not receive a refund from the travel management company.

If you purchased trip insurance, you are entitled to a 75% refund if we communicate with the travel company at least 48 hours before the trip. This would mean that Delran High School must be aware of your intentions by emailing Mr. Finkle at dfinkle@delranschools.org by Saturday evening, March 7, 2020 if you are choosing to cancel your child's trip.

In closing, please continue to follow healthy living protocols and rest assured knowing that the District is doing everything in its power to ensure that the health and wellness of all of its stakeholders is maintained. If you have any specific questions that have not been answered please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Brotschul". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "B" and "B".

Brian Brotschul, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools