



BAYONNE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Office of the Superintendent
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Superintendent

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March 10, 2020

Dear Bayonne Community,

The district is releasing information on our school health-related closure preparedness plan to provide home instruction in the event of such a closure is ordered by the Department of Health. Instructions will be sent home and will be found in the digital backpacks. You will be receiving information on how to access the plan. We are prepared and ready for a quick and immediate response should the Department of Health require our schools to close in the event of a COVID-19 outbreak in our community. **There is no such notification at this time.** However, we would like our community to know we are prepared and every day we are monitoring the current COVID-19 situation.

“New Jersey Department of Health guidance identifies school closure as a potential strategy to limit transmission within a community. In the event a board of education is provided a written directive by either the NJDOH or the health officer of the jurisdiction to institute a public health-related closure, the board of education may utilize home instruction to provide instructional services to enrolled students. Any day in which students impacted by a public health-related closure have access to home instruction services provided consistent with the guidance in this memo will count as a day in which the board of education has provided public school facilities toward its compliance with the 180-day requirement in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9.”

The Bayonne School District will utilize an online learning platform of Google Classroom or ClassDojo. We will be sending access instructions this week should it be necessary. Again, this is a precaution at this time as part of our readiness procedures.

The safety and security of our students, faculty, staff and community are our number one concern. This past weekend and all week, our district has met with all of our district administration and leadership to ensure we will have a seamless response to a possible COVID-19 threat.

We were made aware of reports on social media today of a student in a Hudson County town with COVID-19. That report was false – I was personally advised by the Hudson County Executive County Superintendent that the report was false and without merit. There was also a student who came to one of our schools today with a mask on reporting that his family member was in a location with suspected case of COVID-19. I personally called the location and found that report was false as well. However, we are taking all reports very seriously and monitoring every situation with our Department of Health. If there is any report of COVID-19 in our schools or reported to our Department of Health we will notify our community immediately.

We would like to also inform our community that students who report to school wearing masks will be sent home as we will presume your child(s) is ill. We reiterate that if a student is ill - please see our letter in reference to staying home and seeking medical attention.

The Bayonne School District is following the below cleaning protocol for all buildings on a daily basis.

Here is what we have our custodial staff doing to help avoid the spread of germs:

All schools are provided with an EPA registered disinfectant to effectively treat all touch points in all areas of the building.

All schools are provided with a hydrogen peroxide-based all surface cleaner to effectively clean light to heavily soiled and greasy surfaces.

Evening custodial staff at each building clean touch points throughout the building and then apply disinfectant to eliminate cross-contamination from treated surfaces.

We are also using sprayers and pressured cleaning guns to disinfect areas.

Custodial staff maintains an open line of communication with the principal to identify areas of the building that require enhanced cleaning based on the number of staff and students that have reported illness.

Custodial staff is on extra duties to maximize our district wide approach to clean our buildings.

All HVAC units district-wide that require air filters are routinely changed and serviced per an established Preventative Maintenance Schedule.

Hand Soap is checked and stocked for staff and students use each day and readily available at each sink throughout the district.

Hand sanitizer is checked and stocked in designated areas throughout the district where there is not a sink readily available.

Restrooms are cleaned and disinfected throughout the school day.

Microfiber cleaning cloths are color-coded and used for custodial cleaning to eliminate cross-contamination and produce effective cleaning results.

All buses in transportation are cleaned and disinfected on a daily basis utilizing the same effective cleaning chemicals used in our schools.

All bus handrails, seat buckles, and seats are disinfected after each use.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John J. Niesz', with a stylized flourish at the end.

John J. Niesz
Superintendent