



Egg Harbor Township Schools

www.eht.k12.nj.us

Administration Offices

13 Swift Drive

Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234

March 11, 2020

To Our Egg Harbor Township School Community:

We are diligently working with the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) to plan and prepare in the event we are mandated to close a school or schools due to the coronavirus (now referred to as COVID-19). Allow me to emphasize that this is not a time for panic but a time for preparedness. An integral part of preparedness is communication. You will be receiving a variety of communications from the District regarding COVID-19, this may be via telephone, e-mail, social media and letters.

Today's communication is in an effort to share some important information about what our school district is currently doing and will continue to do regarding COVID-19. Please know that we are closely monitoring the evolving situation in order to ensure the health and safety of all members of our school community. I am asking that we all take a team-effort approach to prepare for COVID-19.

In that spirit, I would like to share information with you:

1.) We have been meeting on a regular basis to monitor information about the COVID-19 Virus. This includes conversations with our school administrators, directors of facilities, food services, transportation, security, The Atlantic County Superintendent, and leaders from neighboring school districts. Readily available resources for us are: our school physician, the Atlantic County Division of Public Health, the New Jersey Department of Health, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website <https://www.cdc.gov/> and daily alerts from the NJDOE.

2.) We ask that all students, faculty, and staff take reasonable precautions in an effort to prevent the spread of germs, viruses, etc. Specifically, we recommend that

individuals not engage in handshakes, wash their hands on a regular basis (using warm water and soap), avoid touching the face, eyes, nose, and mouth, use tissues for coughing and sneezing, discard the tissue, utilize hand sanitizer products, and stay away from sick people. Individuals who are experiencing symptoms of illness (especially fever, cough, respiratory issues, etc.) or have the flu are asked not to attend school/work or other activities.

3.) Our custodial staff cleans all schools (surfaces, door handles, classrooms, lavatories, floors,) every night with disinfectants. This cleaning process is more than just sanitizing and may leave a foggy film on surfaces; this is indication of the disinfecting process taking place. Teachers and students can assist during the day by wiping down surfaces, phones, computers, and other learning/work spaces after use. Personal cell phones should be cleaned throughout the day as well. Our bus drivers wipe down school busses and our food service workers have been taking precautions when serving food and wiping down tables. I remind you that these measures are our common practices and not reactionary to the COVID -19 virus. We are proud to have good cleaning and healthy practices in our schools.

4.) We have enhanced opportunities for students, faculty, and staff to take precautionary measures by encouraging the use of sanitation dispensers/wipes, educating students on information regarding recommended prevention behaviors, requiring hand washing and proper hygiene practices, and providing appropriate updates to the school community.

5.) We responded to the memo from the NJDOE Commissioner of Education regarding guidance for school closure by refocusing the plans for our already scheduled Professional Learning Days. We used this time to create lesson plans for home instruction for all students. This may include the use of Moby Max, Google Classroom, and a link to hard-copy packets of educational material. Parents of students who do not have access to the internet or a printer should inform the building principal as soon as possible. The lesson plans will be made available on each school's website district. Initiation of this plan will take place via phone call from the Superintendent upon a mandated school closing. We also have a plan in place for serving food to eligible students, who will be notified of such plan if we are in a mandated closing.

6.) All field trips of a non-competitive nature have been cancelled or postponed until April 30th. Parents, Guardians and Students if you have any question about a specific trip please contact your building principal or advisor/coach. Staff who have professional development outside of the school district are to keep in contact with the host of the workshop and report any cancellations to the content areas supervisor or principal. Staff who travel to workshops outside of the state of New Jersey are advised to do so at their discretion. Please take recommended precautionary measures for travel: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/>

7.) With Spring Break right around the corner, I cannot ignore the fact that many students, families, faculty, and staff members travel. Although, we cannot require changes to personal travel plans, we strongly suggest that all who are traveling investigate the conditions for their final destinations, including risk of transmission as well as the risk of quarantine upon returning. Some attractions have closed, flights have been cancelled and restrictions have been implemented. We encourage everyone to use reasonable precautions with regard to travel plans which include flying and international destinations. The CDC website provides current travel advisories regarding restrictions on travel and encourages the use of enhanced precautions. Visit this link to stay up to date with CDC's travel health notices related to this outbreak: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/>.

For all parents, students and staff, if you have upcoming personal travel that will take you outside of the United States, or in an area that is known to have a COVID-19 concentration, please consider communicating those plans to your building principal for parents, guardians and students or Dr. Charlton in Human Resources for staff. This information will assist us in being able to address any concerns and continue to provide a safe and healthy environment for all staff and students.

In addition, if any student or staff member, falls ill with flu-like respiratory symptoms after traveling, please contact the building principal or Dr. Charlton, as appropriate prior to returning to school. If you are currently, in school, please see the nurse, become familiar with self-quarantine and immediately contact a medical professional. At this time, it is mandatory that quarantined patients are confined for at least 14 days.

According to the CDC, “stigma and discrimination can occur when people associate an infectious disease, such as COVID -19, with a population or nationality, even though not everyone in that population or from that region is specially at risk for the disease.” The NJDOE encourages all educators and members of the public to recommit to raising awareness of the deep educational and personal harm brought by stigma, bullying, and harassment in our schools, and to spreading factual public health information without fear or stigmatization.

The CDC has said the risk here in the U.S. still remains low. However, we want to ensure that you have valuable information about how the Egg Harbor Township School District is responding to the concerns of the COVID-19 virus. For more information about the virus, the following websites provide pertinent information:

[WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION: COVID-19 Situation Report](#)

[CDC: Preventing COVID-19 Spread in the Communities](#)

[US Department of Education: COVID-19 Information and Resources for Schools and School Personnel](#)

[State of NJ Department of Health: Communicable Disease Service](#)

COVID-19 Call Center 1-800-222-1222

Additionally, please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns that you may have.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kimberly A. Gruccio EdD".

Kimberly A. Gruccio EdD

Superintendent