



# **ROCKAWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT**

---

103 EAST MAIN STREET  
ROCKAWAY, NEW JERSEY 07866  
TEL: 973-625-8601  
FAX: 973-625-7355

MRS. PHYLLIS ALPAUGH  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

## **Corona Virus Information Rockaway Borough School District February 27, 2020**

The Rockaway Borough School District along with its related health services team is dedicated to strengthening and facilitating the educational process by protecting the health status of our students and staff. As part of that mission, we work directly with the New Jersey Department of Health (DOH) and school doctor to prevent the spread of any communicable illness. There have been recent changes in the status of public health that we believe are important for our community to be aware of. The Center for Disease Control is responding to an outbreak of respiratory disease caused by a coronavirus that was first detected in Wuhan City, China. On February 11, 2020 the World Health Organization announced the official name for the disease that is causing the 2019 novel coronavirus outbreak as coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). There is still a lot that is unknown about the newly emerged COVID-19 and how it spreads. However, as of right now, the spread of disease has been contained. According to the Center of Disease Control: "Imported cases of COVID-19 in travelers have been detected in the United States. Person-to-person spread of COVID-19 also has been seen among close contacts of returned travelers from Wuhan, but at this time, this virus is NOT currently spreading in the community in the United States." In total, 14 cases have been confirmed in the United States as of today, February 27, 2020.

There has been some media speculation about virtual learning and the closure of schools. These claims are currently unsubstantiated based on the Center of Disease Control's official recent updates and should not cause alarm or concern. If there is a need to close the district, the New Jersey Department of Education does not currently permit a virtual learning option. We will remain in contact with the Morris County office regarding our options should a need arise. We are thankful to our district and area health professionals who are monitoring this health concern. We will continue our work with the New Jersey Department of Health, our health services team, and our administrative team to monitor the Coronavirus outbreak. We will share additional information as it is shared with the school district, but we encourage all families who are interested in receiving more up to date information on the Coronavirus outbreak to visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/> for more information. The Center for Disease Control has provided a fairly comprehensive blueprint for understanding the disease and the action it is taking as an organization to ensure the safety of the public.

As a precaution, as with any contagious disease, here are some simple, but important reminders to keep your children and family healthy:

- Practice good hand washing
- Cover your mouth when coughing or sneezing
- Keep sick children home for 24 hours until fever free without fever reducing medications
- Report illnesses and symptoms to the school nurse

We will continue to work with and receive guidance from the NJ Department of Health as well as the NJ Department of Education and provide more information when available.