



WANTAGH UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Superintendent of Schools

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John McNamara
Superintendent

March 12, 2020

Dear Wantagh Community,

We continue to monitor the ever-evolving situation with the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). At this time, there are still no confirmed cases for any of our district's staff or students.

However, we are going to expand some of our district measures to further limit exposure for our students and staff, and which will also expand our ability to continue to disinfect our buildings. Beginning tomorrow and continuing through April 19, 2020, we will enact the following changes:

- All of our field trips will be suspended.
- All of our large group gatherings will be postponed.
- Certain limitations will be placed on the use of our facilities by outside groups.

I know that this will cause some significant disappointment for our students and parents that were looking forward to upcoming events, but we have been advised it is an appropriate measure to be taken at this time. These changes will be re-evaluated again at the end of our spring recess and it will be determined if they need to be extended.

We continue to disinfect all of our school buildings on a regular basis and implement our expanded cleaning protocols. Disinfecting all spaces is taking place throughout the day and during evening hours, and additional personnel is being used to assist with this process.

Yesterday, my fellow Nassau County School Superintendents and I met with the Nassau County Executive, Laura Curran, and the Commissioner of the Nassau County Health Department, Dr. Lawrence Eisenstein, to review our protocols and coordinate our efforts to continue to protect the students of Nassau County. Our district will continue to follow the established guidance to close our schools for twenty-four hours when a confirmed case for a student or staff member of coronavirus (COVID-19) is reported to us by the Nassau County Health Department. I would ask you to please have contingency plans in place for child care in the event of a school closing.

Lastly, I know this time has caused significant stress on all the members of our community. It can be challenging to discuss this with our children in an age appropriate way. I have attached a guidance document provided by the National School Psychologists Association that you may wish to review. I thank you for your active engagement and advocacy for the students of Wantagh, and we will continue to place their health and safety at the forefront of all that we do each day.

Sincerely,

John C. McNamara

Superintendent of Schools