
February 27, 2020

Greetings ICSD Community,

As you may be aware, a new coronavirus (COVID-19) has spread from China to at least 40 countries around the world, and the risk to people in the United States is low according to health authorities. The health and wellbeing of our students and staff is a top priority and we share your concerns. To date, there are no confirmed cases in New York State. During this time of the year, there are many possible causes for respiratory illness and there is currently no need to cancel school or social events, or for students or staff to wear surgical masks at school.

Our planning and response strategies reflect our commitment to an inclusive and caring school community. As such, individuals will not be excluded from school or any school activities based on race or country of origin. Diseases can make anyone sick regardless of their race or ethnicity. People of Asian descent, including Chinese Americans, are not more likely to get COVID-19 than any other American.

Cases in the U.S. have been limited, though federal agencies are advising communities to prepare for the spread of COVID-19. Our leadership is staying current with the latest information and recommendations in collaboration with local and state authorities, along with other educational institutions. We are also undergoing a process to review our policies and practices relating to contagious illnesses with the support of state and local health authorities, up to and including measures like school closures, or canceling of international student trips.

Currently, the risk to the general public is low, so right now there are no additional precautions recommended for the general public. As a reminder, the following everyday actions help prevent the spread of all respiratory viruses:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

For the latest updates please regularly check the [NYSDOH's 2019 Novel \(New\) Coronavirus webpage](#), the [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's \(CDC's\) 2019 Novel Coronavirus](#) and the [CDC's Frequently Asked Questions and Answers](#) webpages.

Regards,
Luvella