



The Gateway School

Providing Excellence in Special Education since 1981

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Affiliated with Harbor School, Eatontown, NJ & Alpha School, Jackson, NJ

March 12, 2020

To the families of students at Gateway School:

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE!

We are monitoring the alerts from the CDC (Center for Disease Control) about the possibility of the spread of the Coronavirus within the United States. We will continue to follow the current direction posted by the New Jersey Department of Education and the New Jersey Department of Health. Please note that currently we have no concerns about the virus in our schools.

We are continuing to maintain enhanced daily cleaning and sanitizing at the school. Throughout the school, we always have hand sanitizer dispensers that are effective against common disease. While handwashing with soap and water is always preferred, we will remind our students and staff to use the provided sanitizers when hand washing is not available.

We would like to remind you of the recommended precautions for preventing the flu and other viruses. Our staff is encouraged to follow these practices as well, and will remind our students.

- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or into your sleeve, not your hands
- Wash hands often, with soap and water, especially after coughing or sneezing.
 - If soap and water is not immediately available, use a hand sanitizer.
- Try to avoid people who are sick
- Get a flu shot, but remember this is for Type A or B, not Coronavirus
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects
- Keep children home when sick. While we typically don't mind students coming to school with minor respiratory symptoms, we must be particularly cautious during this time.

If your student has a fever, **THEY CANNOT COME TO SCHOOL.** They must be fever-free for 24 hours **WITHOUT** a fever-reducing medication like Tylenol.

Please, do not give your student Tylenol and send them to school!

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our students and staff safe and healthy. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Nurse Linda.

Please be assured that our school is doing everything possible for the safety of our students and staff during this time.

Preventing exposure to the virus: The Center for Disease Control (CDC), which monitors the virus for the United States, has been actively discussing "prevention of community spread." This means having a plan to prevent the spread of the virus if test results show that the virus is present and/or spreading in any specific community.

What can be done to prevent the spread of the virus?

Please be aware that this plan **could** include closing Gateway School for an extended length of time, with a minimum being 2 weeks, to reduce the exposure to others.

This decision **WILL NOT** be made by RKS or the Gateway School, but by the CDC or our local Boards of Health, and we will be required to follow their directive.

What does this mean for our families?

You need to be prepared, that at any time, your child could be home from school for an extended time. If you work outside the home, you need to think **now** about how you will manage child care if this happens.

How will you be notified if we have to close our schools?

If any of our schools need to temporarily close, families will be notified by the Honeywell Instant Alert System, the same system we use for inclement weather.

There are no plans currently to close any of our schools, but we want you to be aware of the possibility in case we are directed to close for an extended amount of time.

Also be aware that the closure, if directed, could be immediate, which is why it is important to plan now.

Our goal is to keep you as informed as possible of how the RKS schools will manage things during the next weeks as the virus is monitored. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your student's principal or school nurse.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation during this difficult time,

Stay healthy and safe!

Christopher Hoye, Ed.D./Principal