



## NEW PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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March 6, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians, Staff, and Community Members,

The New Providence School District has been closely monitoring all updates regarding the Coronavirus (COVID-19) from the CDC (Centers for Disease Control), New Jersey Department of Education and the New Jersey Department of Health. In addition, we have been in close communication with our local Westfield Regional Health Department. Last evening, we received new information from the Department of Education regarding our requirements to implement a public health-related school closure. Please note the following from that Guidance:

*The New Jersey Department of Health guidance identifies school closure as a potential strategy to limit transmission within a community. In the event a board of education is provided a written directive by either the NJDOH or the health officer of the jurisdiction to institute a public health-related closure, the board of education may utilize home instruction to provide instructional services to enrolled students. The provision of home instruction services should be guided by N.J.A.C. 6A:16-10.1 and may include **online instruction**. Any day in which students impacted by a public health-related closure have access to home instruction services will count as a day in which the Board of Education has provided public school facilities toward its compliance with the 180-day requirements in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9.*

Therefore, in the event the district is required to close as per a written directive from the Department of Public Health, we will implement our Influenza Pandemic Preparedness/Management plan, which includes online learning for all of our students, so that we may count each of these days toward the 180-day Department of Education requirement, and will not have to make up these days a later date. Currently, we do not have any cases and have not been directed by the Department of Public Health to close. In the event we need to close in the future, we will provide specific guidance regarding our protocols, and more specifically, how we will continue to provide instruction in an online environment.

We are very fortunate, in that, for many years, we have continued to build upon our infrastructure and technology capacity. Technology integration has become a major part of each of our classrooms, and will allow for us to continue instruction online during an extended school closure. In the event we need to engage in a school closure for an extended period of time, we will provide much greater specificity in future correspondence from the district as well as each of our school principals.

In the meantime, we continue to encourage you to utilize all of the recommended precautions for preventing the flu and other viruses as per the Westfield Regional Health Department and school guidelines:

- Prevent the spread of germs by covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue (then properly disposing of the tissue) or sleeve, not your hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds, especially after changing diapers, touching pets, and commonly used surfaces. Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Review and follow CDC travel advisories
- Clean and disinfect frequently-touched surfaces and objects.
- Keep your children home when they are sick
- Children should not return to school unless they have been fever-free without medication for 24 hours

The following links provide useful, factual information about the current status of COVID-19:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/summary.html>

<https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/ncov.shtml>

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our schools safe and healthy. We will continue to communicate with you about this very important topic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David M. Miceli, Ed.D." The signature is written in a cursive style.

DAVID M. MICELI, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools