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WEST ELIZABETH - JEFFERSON HILLS - PLEASANT HILLS

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March 2, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

In everything we do, the safety of our students and staff is our top concern. In light of that, we want to share an important message about the coronavirus (COVID-19) illness. With the virus now spreading outside its origins in China, and over 50 cases now in the United States, we are taking every precaution to prepare ourselves in the event of a potential outbreak. The District is monitoring the situation closely and is taking direction from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Pennsylvania Department of Health and the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) regarding mitigation procedures.

We are asking parents to help in the effort to minimize the spread of this type of virus by having your family follow the recommendations from the CDC, which are the same ones that everyone should practice during flu season:

Wash hands frequently

When coughing or sneezing cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or by using your sleeve or elbow

Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth

Stay home when sick and don't return to school for at least 24 hours of being fever-free without the use of medication.

In addition, the school district is following recommendations from the CDC to daily clean areas and equipment frequently touched by students and staff, and encourage students to wash hands often. We are also switching to a new cleaning solution recommended by our supplier for viruses and will be adding extra hand sanitation dispensers in our cafeterias.

We also encourage parents to report if their child has a confirmed case of the flu to help us track viral infections and to better target our sanitizing efforts.

If we do experience COVID-19 cases, we will take our direction from the CDC, Pennsylvania Department of Health and the Allegheny County Health Department regarding any potential decisions regarding school closures.

For additional information concerning coronavirus, please see the CDC and ACHD guidelines at the links below:

Guidance from CDC:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/prevention-treatment.html>

Cases in the United States:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html>

2019-nCoV and Children:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/children-faq.html>

Guidance from ACHD (Also references CDC):

<https://www.alleghenycounty.us/Health-Department/Resources/Data-and-Reporting/Infectious-Disease-Epidemiology/2019-Novel-Coronavirus.aspx>

We will continue to monitor the situation and will send updates and additional information as needed.

Thank you for your cooperation,



Dr. Michael Ghilani
Superintendent of Schools