

February 28, 2020

Dear Dobbs Ferry School District Families,

I know that coronavirus (COVID-19) is on everyone's minds, and I wanted to update you prior to the weekend with the latest information that we have obtained. After yesterday's announcement from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) regarding the potential for an outbreak in the United States, it is understandable that we are all concerned. However, there are still no confirmed cases in New York State, and we are closely monitoring the situation. Health officials continue to communicate that the immediate risks in our area remain extremely low.

The School District is in daily contact with the most reliable sources of information including the Westchester County Department of Health, the CDC, the NYS Education Department (NYSED), the NYS Department of Health (NYSDOH) and our school physician, who participates in a weekly call with the NYSDOH to specifically update healthcare providers. Per the NYSDOH, it is important to know that healthy individuals should not be buying N95 masks, as this supply should be reserved for health care facilities and workers, as conservation is imperative given a potential shortage.

Yesterday, we also learned about Japan's decision to close schools for an extended period of time. You may be wondering how our School District would handle a potential school closing for an extended duration, which is unlikely and an extreme measure. With our significant investment in technology, professional development, and blended learning across all of our schools, we are well-positioned to respond should distance learning become a necessary step. Please know that we are actively preparing plans to address a variety of contingencies to ensure the health and safety of students, faculty, and staff and to provide instructional continuity.

In the meantime, our local, state and national departments of health continue to provide guidance for school districts. Our actions have been, and will continue to be, in alignment with these recommendations. Please reassure your children that they are safe and that we are taking all necessary precautions. We will continue to update you as the situation unfolds and new information becomes available.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lisa Brady  
Superintendent of Schools