



MORRIS HILLS REGIONAL DISTRICT

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March 9, 2020

Dear Morris Hills Regional District Community,

We are writing to update you that the Morris Hills Regional School District is continuing to monitor alerts and information provided by the New Jersey Department of Education, New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH), and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) with regard to Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). As always, the Morris Hills Regional District's top priority is the safety of our students, communities, and staff members. As a district, we are approaching the COVID-19 with a sense of preparedness and not a sense of panic. Last week, administrators for the Morris Hills Regional District met several times to begin the process of creating a plan should Morris Hills High School and Morris Knolls High School be forced to close due to the COVID-19.

On Thursday, March 5, 2020, the Department of Education issued guidance to all school districts outlining the process that will be used to provide online instruction to students in the event of a closure. Commissioner of Education, Lamont O. Repollet, informed schools that should the state require a school to close due to a health-related reason the days would count toward the 180-day requirement if schools could provide virtual home instruction, including online lessons and appropriate special education services.

Please note that the decision to close due to a health-related event is made by the Department of Health. Currently, we do not have reported cases of COVID-19 in our schools or local communities. The NJDOH and CDC report that, at this time, the health risk to the general public for COVID-19 remains low.

On Thursday, March 12, 2020, the Morris Hills Regional District will conduct a two-hour delayed opening of school for students only to allow our teachers time to create virtual learning opportunities for our students in the event the Morris Hills Regional District is forced to close. Furthermore, the district will be moving the scheduled April 7, 2020 teacher in-service to March 18, 2020 for continued preparation. Any additional two-hour delayed openings of school for students will be communicated via School Messenger.

In order to implement a virtual learning experience for our students, we need to determine how many of our students do not have an electronic device at home. Additionally, we need to ascertain who does not have internet connectivity at home. Toward that end, we will be surveying all students on Wednesday, March 11, 2020 during Block 2/6 utilizing Google Forms. Students will have the survey sent to their mhrd.org accounts. Mr. MacNaughton, Principal of Morris Knolls High School, and Dr. Toriello, Principal of Morris Hills High School, will be making a school-wide announcement on March 11th asking teachers to administer the survey prior to starting their instruction for the block. If any student does not have an electronic device or internet access at home, please inform the building Principal, and we will accommodate your needs.

Once again, our custodial staff is trained with an effective cleaning regiment as outlined in our Morris Hills Regional District Cleaning Standards Handbook. Our buildings are cleaned daily with attention to specific areas of concern. As other schools are changing cleaning patterns, our custodial staff meets and exceeds the standards of cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing in our buildings on a daily basis, not just during an outbreak.

We cannot stress enough that there is no need to panic. The measures we have implemented and will continue to implement are preventive in nature.

Thank you for your continued support, patience, and flexibility as we continue to prepare for this very unusual set of circumstances.

Sincerely,

James J. Jencarelli, Jr., Superintendent
Ryan MacNaughton - Principal - Morris Knolls High School
Todd M. Toriello, Ed.D. - Principal - Morris Hills High School