



BYRAM HILLS

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

10 TRIPP LANE ARMONK, NY 10504

March 5, 2020

To the Byram Hills School Community,

There is continued concern nationally and locally about the extent of the coronavirus and its transmission. The [Department of Health](#) reports that the virus has been identified in New York, and [Governor Cuomo's Coronavirus Update](#) on 3/4/20 specified cases in Westchester County.

Today I attended a conference call with Brad Hutton, Deputy Commissioner of Public Health for the NYS Department of Health, Dana Caratenuto Rico, Deputy Secretary for Legislative Affairs and Policy for Governor Cuomo, and Dan Fuller, Deputy Secretary for Education for Governor Cuomo. The NYS Department of Health representative indicated that school officials will be notified in the event of any quarantine orders in our area and that we should expect some written guidance soon regarding established procedures for managing cases. We are told that school closures are to be managed on a case-by-case basis.

Some schools in our county have closed for a few days due to individual circumstances. At Byram Hills, we have canceled many of our big trips (Disney sports and music trips, Washington DC and Boston trips). As a District, we need to take steps to prevent the introduction and spread of the coronavirus into our school community. We do not want students, chaperones and staff in environments where large groups from around the world are gathering. We also do not want to risk potential quarantine issues and difficulty returning our children and others home.

We are continuing to look at local day trips and activities and will inform parents in the event of cancellations or modifications in the future. For now, we are continuing with our schedule of school and local activities. As changes occur, we will update our families.

Our District continues with operations protocols for the cleaning of our schools and buses. Signs have been posted in buildings reminding students not to share school supplies or beverages and to wash hands repeatedly. A video will be mailed to all elementary parents to reinforce healthy habits in school and at home.

I know that it is difficult for all of us to remain calm during this time of uncertainty, but it is important to consider the effect this climate is having on our children. If your children are experiencing great concern, please contact your school psychologist or guidance counselor.

Thank you for your continued support,

Jen Lamia, Ed.D
Superintendent of Schools