



March 10, 2020

To the Byram Hills School Community,

I am reaching out to update you on the evolving situation regarding COVID-19. As you know, we have taken precautionary steps as a District. These include the cancellation of trips, attempts to limit exposure, and cleaning protocols. Last night, we received additional guidance from state officials and want to share this with the community.

The **Guidance Document** from the NYS Department of Health dated March 9, 2020, noted the following:

If there is a COVID-19 case related to a school, the school will be contacted by the State Health Department in consultation with the local health department. Quarantine, restricted movement, and monitoring should only be directed by local departments of health at the direction of the State Health Department.

Governor Cuomo also imposed a 24-hour shutdown rule for schools with coronavirus cases for the Department of Health to conduct a review of exposure and designate how long schools will be closed.

Officials from the New York State Department of Health stated that in the absence of a confirmed COVID-19 case, it is recommended that all schools remain open.

Byram Hills will continue to follow the guidance of the health authorities ***but will notify families if there is a change due to our individual District circumstances.***

What will the District do if there is an extended school closure?

The District is preparing ways to supplement student learning and support families virtually should there be an extended school closure.

To date, the NYS Department of Education has not indicated how school closures will affect the school calendar.

In the event of a closure, remote learning resources that are familiar to District students, families and staff are being planned. The District will contact you with specific information in a timely manner should this be necessary.

Mental Health

We remain sensitive to our children and their current knowledge and fears about the coronavirus. We are taking steps in each school building to provide our students with support, and we will continue to work with the broader community to share resources.

Please contact your child's teacher or building principal if you have concerns about your child. We are here to help.

Thank you for your continued support,

Jen Lamia, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools