



LANSINGBURGH CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

DISTRICT OFFICE

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Dr. Antonio W. Abitabile, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Phone: 518-233-6850

March 3rd, 2020

Dear Lansingburgh students, staff and families,

Given the amount of media attention it has received, I am reaching out to everyone regarding the coronavirus (also known as COVID-19). While there are currently no known cases of it in Rensselaer County, student safety remains of highest importance to us.

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that cause symptoms of colds, with this being a newer strand of the virus that originated in China in 2019. The virus likely spreads from coughing/sneezing droplets or close contact with another sick person. Common symptoms can include fever with cough, shortness of breath, headache, sore throat and runny nose. However, some people have fewer of these symptoms or none at all.

Based on current information, the immediate health risk to our school district is low. We are closely monitoring this ongoing situation and following guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), the New York State Education Department (NYSED) and the Rensselaer County Health Department. Should the situation in our school district change, we will be in contact with you again as soon as possible.

Our schools are taking the same preventative measures as during cold/flu seasons, including regularly disinfecting surfaces and frequently reminding students and staff to wash their hands often. As always, we urge you to keep your children home from school if they are sick (you can refer to our [“When Students Should Stay Home from School” online guide](#)) and contact your medical provider immediately if your child is seriously ill.

The following are NYSDOH suggestions for minimizing the spread of all respiratory viruses, including the coronavirus:

- Wash your hands often, for at least 20 seconds, with soap and water
- Use at least 60% alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are unavailable
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with those you know are sick
- Stay home if you or your child feels sick.
- Cover your mouth/nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing. If you use a tissue, immediately throw it away.
- Regularly clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

If interested in reading more about the coronavirus, we recommend looking to official sources such as the CDC (www.cdc.gov) or NYSDOH (www.health.ny.gov/ or call 1-888-364-3065 for their coronavirus hotline).

Thank you for your help keeping our students, staff and school community safe.

Sincerely,

Dr. Antonio W. Abitabile, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools