

# SAGAPONACK COMMON SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Board of Trustees*

**P.O. Box 1500**

**Sagaponack, New York 11962**

**Telephone: (631) 537-0651**

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**Cathy Hatgistavrou, *President***  
**Lauren Thayer, *Vice President***  
**Brian Villante, *Trustee***

**Mr. Alan Van Cott**  
***Superintendent of Schools***

**Jeanette Krempler, *District Clerk***  
**Eileen Tuohy, *District Treasurer***

Dear Parent/Guardian:

While the Sagaponack Common School District does not have a confirmed case of COVID-19, caused by the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) in our school, we are aware of the concerns in the community about the spread of this relatively new virus.

The district is closely monitoring this matter and we are following guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), Suffolk County Department of Health and the New York State Education Department.

The district has been taking steps, such as cleaning and disinfecting throughout the school to minimize the spread of viruses and a variety of other illnesses. According to the Department of Health, there are a number of steps that students, staff and community members can take to minimize the spread of all respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19. These steps include:

- Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

If you or a family member begin feeling ill or show signs of a respiratory illness, contact your healthcare provider. We encourage our parents to keep all children who are not feeling well at home.

Please know that, as always, the health and safety of our students and staff is our highest priority. We will remain vigilant in our efforts to help prevent the spread of this illness and protecting the health and safety of our school community.

Sincerely,



Alan Van Cott   
Superintendent of Schools

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**The following information regarding the Coronavirus has been provided to us by the NYS Department of Health and the NYS Department of Education:**

## **Symptoms**

Information to date suggests that 2019-nCoV causes mild-to-moderate illness and symptoms like the flu, including fever, cough, and difficulty breathing.

## **How Does 2019 Novel (New) Coronavirus Spread?**

Health experts believe the virus probably spreads from animals to humans and from person-to-person. It's not clear yet how easily the virus spreads from person-to-person. On March 1, 2020, NYS reported it's first confirmed case of a person that tested positive for the Novel Coronavirus. However, as per NYS Governor Andrew Cuomo, "...the general risk remains low in NYS." Therefore, there is no need to cancel school or social events, and there is no need for students or school staff to wear surgical masks at school.

## **Prevention**

There are currently no vaccines available to protect against this virus. The New York State Department of Health (DOH) recommends the following to minimize the spread of all respiratory viruses, including 2019-nCoV:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing. If you use a tissue, throw it in the trash.
- Routinely clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- CDC recommends that travelers avoid all travel to China.

## **Additional Resources**

- CDC's dedicated 2019-nCoV website at <https://cdc.gov/nCoV>.
- NYSDOH's dedicated 2019-nCoV website at <https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus/>
- NYSDOH directory of local health departments [https://www.health.ny.gov/contact/contact\\_information/](https://www.health.ny.gov/contact/contact_information/)
- New York State Center for School Health website at [www.schoolhealthny.com](http://www.schoolhealthny.com)
- New York Novel Coronavirus Hotline Call 1-888-364-3065