

SAGAPONACK COMMON SCHOOL DISTRICT

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March 12, 2020

Dear Sagaponack Parents:

This letter will serve as an update as it relates to additional information as well as the actions we have taken and will be taking regarding the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (also known as COVID-19) and how it impacts the Sagaponack School.

Let me start by stating the following...To date, we have not been notified by Suffolk County health officials that any individuals in our school (children or adults) have tested positive for the Novel Coronavirus, COVID-19. In addition, we have worked directly with local health department officials to learn more about the 2019 Novel Coronavirus. This includes but is not limited to our participation in webinars, county-wide conferences and conference calls all coordinated by the Suffolk County Department of Health (DOH). We have also increased our daily cleaning procedures that include disinfecting surfaces that have been identified as high touch. These are the areas/items that are regularly touched by students and staff. For example: door knobs, desk-top surfaces, counter tops, light switches, toilet flush handles, etc. We continue to use cleaning products that have been approved for combatting the Novel Coronavirus COVID-19. Finally, we teach and reinforce, on a regular basis, the need for all individuals in our school to practice good hygiene. This includes washing of hands with soap and water for a minimum of 20 seconds and using tissues and/or the inside of one's elbow when tissues are not readily available.

We have been advised by the DOH that closing school is not necessary at this time unless individuals display symptoms of the Novel Coronavirus COVID-19. According to public health officials, these symptoms are similar to the regular seasonal influenza and include fever, lethargy, lack of appetite and coughing. Other flu-like symptoms have also been associated with the Novel Coronavirus COVID-19. Individuals who need medical care should contact their family physician to report their illness prior to seeking care at a clinic, physician's office or hospital. In addition, if you should have questions about these symptoms or this virus in general, you may contact the New York State Coronavirus Hotline at 1-888-364-3065 (see attached resources).

We have taken these additional steps to limit the exposure of our students and staff to the Novel Coronavirus COVID-19. From tomorrow, Friday, March 13, 2020 to Friday, April 3, 2020, we will only participate in those activities that are required by regulation and/or are part of our regular instructional program. Field trips and individuals who visit with us to provide additional but not required instruction will be postponed and may be rescheduled at a future date.

With the above information in mind, it is our intention to follow the direction of our public health officials and remain open. If this were to change, please be assured that we will contact you with additional information. In the mean-time, your continued support and understanding is greatly appreciated. Reinforcing proper personal hygiene at home, watching for possible symptoms of the Novel Coronavirus COVID-19 with your child and/or your family members, contacting your family physician as needed and staying in touch with us if your child displays symptoms or you have additional questions, will all support our joint efforts to successfully work through this health challenge. If your child is sick, please keep them home.

The safety of your children, the Sagaponack staff and school community remains our highest priority. We will continue to work with public health officials and follow their expert recommendations to best ensure the safety of everyone. We will keep you updated as this situation continues to evolve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan Van Cott", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Alan Van Cott
Superintendent

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Prevention

The New York State Department of Health (DOH) recommends the following way to minimize the spread of all respiratory viruses, including 2019-nCoV:

- Wash your hands 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.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose 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.

Resources

- CDC's dedicated 2019-nCoV website <https://www.cdc.gov/nCoV>.
- NYSDOH's dedicated 2019-nCov website <https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus/>
- NYSDOH directory of local health departments https://www.health.ny.gov/contact/contact_information/
- New York State Center for School Health website www.schoolhealthny.com