



Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen

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Constance D. Evelyn, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

February 28, 2020

Dear Parents & Guardians:

In late January, I communicated with you regarding the new **2019 Novel Coronavirus**, also referred to as **COVID-2019**. While there are no identified cases in New York State, we have remained in contact with Dr. Lawrence E. Eisenstein, Nassau County Commissioner of Health who assists us in monitoring guidelines from state and federal authorities, and our district physician. As the virus continues to affect a number of countries, concerns have raised questions about infection control in schools as it relates to this particular strand of coronavirus.

Please know that Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen has and will continue to be diligent in completing the requisite steps to properly cleanse and sanitize all areas of our buildings. In addition, there are soap dispensers in all lavatories and hand sanitizer dispensers located throughout all of our buildings. This letter reinforces the expectation that flu season prevention practices should be followed - thorough cleaning and disinfection of facilities, reminding staff and students to "cover their cough" with a tissue or sleeve (not your hands) and frequent handwashing. Also, and as always, if your child is ill, please do not send them to school and make sure to schedule an appointment with your physician.

As per the NYS Department of Health, 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. There is, however a need to be proactive in our planning, take the necessary measures to prevent the spread of illness in our schools, and communicate effectively and often with our parents.

For your information, in order to stay up to date about **COVID-2019**, its treatment and prevention, please visit the following websites:

CDC's dedicated COVID-2019 website at: <https://www.cdc.gov/nCoV>.

NYSDOH's dedicated COVID-2019 website at:

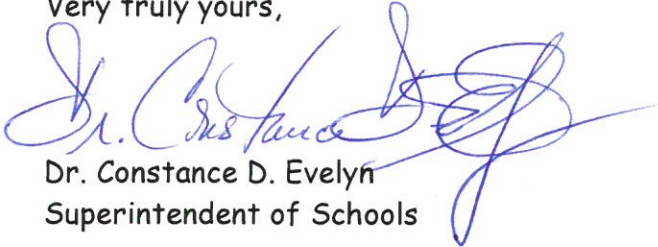
<https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirust>

In addition, NYS has established a **Novel Coronavirus Hotline**, which can provide additional information. Please feel free to call **1-888-364-3065** with questions or concerns regarding travel and signs and symptoms.

As this situation evolves, please know that we will remain in close contact with the appropriate officials, follow any recommendations they issue, and keep you informed of any new developments. Our primary concern is the health and safety of our students and staff. Additionally, while there is no indication that closing schools for an extended period is a possibility in our region, the Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen administrative team has begun discussions on how to best communicate with families and educate students during extended school closures. We will communicate our plan as needed.

As always, we appreciate your support and collaboration to ensure the safety and well-being of our students, staff and families.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dr. Constance D. Evelyn". The signature is stylized and cursive, with a large initial "C" and "E".

Dr. Constance D. Evelyn
Superintendent of Schools