

## Hainesport Township School District Office of the Superintendent

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March 12, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) recently published guidance for K-12 schools regarding the impact that the current outbreak of 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) might have on communities. The guidance emphasizes that the most important thing for schools to do now is **plan** and **prepare**. The guidance dictates that "schools may be asked to close preemptively or reactively, therefore schools should be making plans for what to do if there are recommendations for closing schools or cancelling events." Any closures of school will come directly from the New Jersey Department of Health in conjunction with the Burlington County Health Department.

In the event that Hainesport Township School District is provided a written directive to institute a public health-related closure, we will utilize home instruction, as mandated by the New Jersey Department of Education to provide instructional services to enrolled students. *Any day in which students impacted by a public health-related closure have access to home instruction services will count as a day in which the board of education has provided public school facilities toward its compliance with the 180-day requirement in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9.*

Hainesport Township School Staff are working vigilantly to generate home instruction assignments/lessons that will be disseminated when deemed necessary by the NJDOH. Students will be equipped with daily assignments per content area that can be accessed online (Google Classroom) and as a paper version. Appropriate modified and/or accommodated versions will be made available to students with disabilities. Additionally, the district will address the daily provision of school nutrition benefits or services for all students.

With Spring Break on the horizon, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) has issued travel advisories for several countries. Prior to traveling, individuals should consider the potential risks that may be involved in visiting their destination, including risk of transmission as well as the risk of quarantine upon returning. Students and staff returning from countries with widespread sustained transmission, or areas within the United States deemed as widespread areas of transmission may not be permitted to return to school. Families should follow recommendations provided by the CDC at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/after-travel-precautions.html>. Travelers who have been quarantined for fourteen (14) days and have remained asymptomatic may return to school unless they meet other criteria for school exclusion.

Additionally, according to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), "stigma and discrimination can occur when people associate an infectious disease, such as COVID-19, with a population or nationality, even though not everyone in that population or from that region is specifically at risk for the disease." Staff will continue to raise awareness regarding educational and personal harm brought by stigma, bullying and harassment in schools, and the spreading of factual public health information without fear or stigmatization.

Hainesport Township School District will continue to follow guidance provided by the New Jersey Department of Health and the Burlington County Health Department, as well as the New Jersey Department of Education. For more information, visit:

- NJ Department of Health: <https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/ncov.shtml>
- Center for Disease Control: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/index.html>

If Hainesport Township School District is required to close because of COVID-19, additional information will continue to be provided through our School Messenger service, as well as the Hainesport Township School District website.

Sincerely,

*Joseph R. Corn*

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Superintendent