

March 4, 2020

Dear Families,

Over the weekend, the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene confirmed the first case of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in New York City. While we all hoped this moment would not come, it was something the City has meticulously prepared for. At this time, it is important to listen to facts and not respond to fear. Despite our first confirmed case, New Yorkers remain at low risk for contracting the virus.

The health and safety of all of our children continues to be our first priority. Working in close partnership with the Health Department, we will continue to update our protocols as the situation evolves, and communicate about any possible impact to parents and our communities. We will keep all of our latest information on our website at [schools.nyc.gov/coronavirus](https://schools.nyc.gov/coronavirus).

There are no plans to close schools or early childhood programs at this time. This is an extreme measure that can be disruptive to day-to-day life, and the decision to implement will only be taken at the direction of public health experts. As a reminder, it is critical that all New Yorkers continue to practice general viral infection prevention measures including:

- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue or sleeve
- Wash your hands regularly
- Avoid touching your face
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Get your flu shot – it's never too late
- Stay home if you're feeling sick. Call your doctor and let them know your symptoms and travel history.

We are in direct and regular communication with program leaders to ensure they have the latest information and to answer any questions that may arise. Additionally, we remind all families that they can receive regular updates on this topic and many others by signing up for an NYC Schools Account. Please visit <https://mystudent.nyc/> to create an account and to update your emergency contact information.

Please read the [Frequently Asked Questions sheet](#) attached to this letter for more information, or visit [nyc.gov/coronavirus](https://nyc.gov/coronavirus) at any time for important updates. The health and safety of our children continues to be our chief priority, and we will follow all guidance and take all appropriate measures accordingly.

Sincerely,



Richard A. Carranza  
Chancellor  
New York City Department of Education