



**Department of Health
& Mental Hygiene**

**Department of
Education**

May 10, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Thank you for enrolling your child(ren) in one of the city's Regional Enrichment Centers (REC). Health and safety is our top priority, and the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Health Department) and the Department of Education (DOE) continue to work together to keep the city's students, families, and staff members safe, healthy, and informed as the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic evolves.

The NYC Department of Health is currently investigating cases of Pediatric Multi-System Inflammatory Syndrome, or PMIS, a new health condition appearing in children in New York City and elsewhere. The NYC Health Department is also investigating the possible association between PMIS and COVID-19 in children. Some doctors think the condition is related to having COVID-19, but the connection is still not clear.

PMIS is a rare condition that is not contagious. However, because it is life-threatening, it is important to know the signs. Most children have a persistent, high temperature lasting several days, along with other symptoms, including:

- Irritability or sluggishness
- Abdominal pain without another explanation
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Rash
- Conjunctivitis, or red or pink eyes
- Enlarged lymph node ("gland") on one side of the neck
- Red, cracked lips or red tongue that looks like a strawberry
- Swollen hands and feet, which might also be red

You should call your doctor if your child becomes ill and has had continued fever. Your doctor will ask about your child's symptoms and use that information to recommend next steps. If your child is severely ill, you should go to the nearest emergency room or call 911 immediately.

Although we do not know yet if PMIS is related to COVID-19, we are continuing to take all possible precautions to prevent your child from being exposed to COVID-19 while attending a REC. Your REC will provide face masks, which must be worn by everyone in attendance, including children. Students and staff must also continue to practice good hand hygiene and physical distancing. Staff will help teach and reinforce these habits to all.

Children with chronic medical conditions can be at higher risk for poor outcomes of COVID-19 and should take special care to adhere to prevention measures.

The health and safety of our communities remains our top priority, and we will continue to follow all guidance and take all appropriate measures to help keep our students, families, and staff members safe.

Please do not hesitate to contact your REC site supervisor with any questions.

Sincerely,



Richard Carranza
Chancellor
Department of Education



Oxiris Barbot, MD
Commissioner
Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

The NYC Health Department may change recommendations as the situation evolves.
5.10.2020