

Frequently Asked Questions - Families and Community Partners

Camden City School District Response to Coronavirus (COVID-19)
March 2020

Defining COVID-19

What is coronavirus?

Coronaviruses are a family of viruses and there are different types of coronavirus within that family, much like there are different types of influenza viruses (FLU). Coronaviruses in general are not new and are a frequent cause of respiratory illnesses such as the common cold. Coronaviruses tend to circulate in the fall and winter months, similar to influenza. Most people get infected with these viruses at some point in their lives.

The type of coronavirus that has recently emerged in Wuhan, China is a new type of coronavirus and is infecting people for the first time (which means that people do not have any immunity to it). This newly discovered virus is called SARS-CoV-2 and is causing a disease named COVID-19.

What are the common symptoms?

Symptoms consistent with a respiratory illness, such as the coronavirus, include the following:

- Cough
- Fever
- Shortness of breath

Preventative Measures for COVID-19 at Home

What preventative measures should I follow to help reduce the spread of respiratory viruses?

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends the following:

- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue or into your sleeve, not your hand.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Follow proper hand washing protocols, including washing hands often and for at least 20 second, especially after coughing or sneezing.
- Use hand sanitizer when soap and water are not immediately available.
- Go to all doctor's appointments now as appointments may not be readily available if the virus becomes more prevalent.
- Get a flu shot.

What should I do if I suspect that my child is sick?

If your child is sick with a respiratory illness, especially if they present with a fever (above 100 degrees Fahrenheit, or 37.7 C); keep them home and contact your doctor. Children should be fever-free (without fever-reducing medication) for at least 24 hours before returning to school.

Our school nurses will be monitoring our students and anyone presenting as ill. Students presenting ill will be called immediately to pick up their child.

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What preventative measures should I take in my home?

Frequently wipe clean regularly used surface areas after immediate use (for example, tables, counters and chairs).

Traveling Overseas and Returning to Work / School

What should I do and/or consider if I plan on traveling out of the country?

- With Spring Break quickly approaching, if you intend to travel out of the country check the CDC's Traveler's Health Notices website at (<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices>) on the latest guidance and recommendations for each country to which you will travel.
- Individuals travelling out of the country should be aware of the potential risk of transmission, as well as the risk of quarantine upon returning. It is recommended that any destinations experiencing a sustained community transmission should be avoided.
- If you become sick while you travel, notify your child's school principal immediately upon your return.

My family and I are returning from overseas travel from one of the countries with travel advisories by the CDC (Warning Level 3 or Alert Level 2):

You must contact your school principal if you or any member of your family has recently traveled to a country listed on the CDC website as a community with sustained transmission (China, Italy, South Korea, Iran, and Japan)

In the event of a District-wide outbreak...

What will happen if the District faces an outbreak?

School district officials cannot officially call and/or determine that there is an outbreak. If there are sick students and/or staff in the district, local health officials will notify the New Jersey Department of Health and the Center for Disease Control. These state and federal agencies will make the final determination.

In the event of an outbreak in our community,

- The District will not independently decide to close one or more schools. School closure is determined by the New Jersey Department of Health or the Governor declares a state of emergency for our community.
- Food Services will not be available in the event of school closure.