

From: ChiefOperatingOfficer <ChiefOperatingOfficer@schools.nyc.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2020 4:46:09 PM
Subject: RE: Coronavirus Update 02/26/2020

Dear DOE Colleagues,

This week, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention discussed possible options for what could happen if there is local person-to-person transmission of the novel coronavirus in the United States, including recommendations for school systems to consider.

At this time, it is important to listen to facts and not respond to fear. Currently, there are no confirmed cases of novel coronavirus in New York City and the risk to New Yorkers remains low.

However, transmission of the virus in other countries has raised our level of concern, and we are preparing for the possibility of person-to-person transmission in New York City. The measures that are put in place should local person-to-person transmissions begin will depend on the number of individuals affected and the general severity of illness we experience in our city. Our public health experts are vigilantly preparing for a spectrum of possible scenarios, and we are in close contact with them regarding how that may impact our school communities. There are no plans to close schools or DOE offices at this time.

We should all continue to practice general flu 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, travel history, and if you've had contact with people who are sick.

These [Coronavirus FAQs](#) contain helpful facts regarding common questions about the coronavirus. Please take a look at the FAQs in order to stay informed, as well as to help guard against stigma and fear associated with the virus.

For more information and regular updates, visit the [Health Department's website](#). We will continue to provide updates as they become available. For specific questions/concerns, contact stayinghealthy@schools.nyc.gov.

Office of the Chief Operating Officer