

PRINCIPALS WEEKLY – 01/28/2020

Guidance on Coronavirus and Backpack Home Letter for Families

School Type: **All schools**

Workflow Subcategory: **Health**

Recently, a novel (new) coronavirus was detected in hundreds of people worldwide. A "novel coronavirus" is a strain that has not been previously found in humans. This novel coronavirus can lead to fever, cough and shortness of breath.

There are currently zero diagnoses in New York City, and the risk to New Yorkers is low. The City is monitoring the outbreak closely and working with our agency partners and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Right now, everyone should go about their daily lives, but practice the same precautions you do during cold and flu season: cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when sneezing or coughing; wash your hands with soap and water often; and stay home if you are feeling sick. If you were recently in China, and have a fever and either a cough or shortness-of-breath, call your healthcare provider.

Per the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) there is no need to cancel field trips.

Please [backpack home this letter](#) with your students as soon as possible; [translated copies](#) can be found on InfoHub.

For more information, visit the [Health Department's website](#). For questions, contact your school nurse or BCO [health director](#).

[Backpack letter linked in message:](#)