



M.E.T.S. CHARTER SCHOOL

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Damion Frye, Lead Administrator

March 9, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians, and All District Staff:

As you are aware, M.E.T.S. Charter School is continuing to monitor the alerts from the [CDC](#) about the possibility of the spread of Coronavirus within the United States. We continue to follow the current guidance posted by the [New Jersey Department of Education](#) and the [New Jersey Department of Health](#).

We will continue to provide updates and information with regard to the ongoing management of the Coronavirus situation. Our leadership team continues to meet and train in this regard. As we continue to focus the majority of our efforts with regard to COVID-19 on education and prevention, the conversation has shifted in the last several days to how school districts would continue to operate virtually in the event of extended school closings. The New Jersey Department of Education has confirmed that teleschooling could count as an instructional day toward the statutory requirement of 180 days as these closings would be attributed to a public health emergency or crisis. Unfortunately, the state Department of Education has yet to provide guidance, direction, or criteria relative to how this should and needs to occur. We are actively communicating with the County Superintendents and the Office of Charters and Renaissance Schools for guidance. M.E.T.S. Charter School will have a half day for students on Wednesday, March 11th, 2020 to ensure that we are fully capable of educating students in an online environment if we are required to have a lengthy health-related school closure.

At this juncture, the most effective tools we have are information, education, preparation, and prevention. The Maintenance Department continues to review and re-train on our cleaning protocol. If there is a concern that a student might be carrying the virus, our school nurses will be equipped with the necessary equipment to treat quarantined students. As it is impossible to determine whether an individual has the virus without a test, school nurses and staff are treating any student running a fever and exhibiting similar symptoms such as coughing and shortness of breath as a potential case. When identified, the student will be sequestered in a comfortable area in the school separate from other students until they can be picked up by a parent.

Parents/guardians will be expected to pick-up their child within one hour of being contacted.



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We continue to meet and confer with the Maintenance Department on a regular basis in an effort to ensure that our staff is doing all they can to sanitize the buildings adequately on a nightly basis.

All of you, of course, play a vital role in this team and community effort to stay healthy and safe. First, monitor your own health and that of your children; if they are with fever and symptoms, please remain home, seek medical attention, and notify the school principal. Students should not return to school until they are without fever for at least 24 hours, without the aid of a fever reducer. Also, work with your children and remind them about proper hand washing protocol and keeping their hands away from their mouth and face.

We would like to remind you of the recommended precautions for preventing the flu and other viruses:

- Handwashing with soap and water is preferred to the use of sanitizer. Wash hands often, for at least 20 seconds, especially after coughing or sneezing.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue or into your sleeve, not your hands. Throw the tissue directly in the trash.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Keep your children home when they are sick. Children should not return to school unless they have been fever-free without medication for 24 hours.
- Avoid people who are sick.
- Get a flu shot – it's not too late to be protected.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects.

Additionally, if you or anyone with whom you reside or interact has been to a country with a high number of cases, please consider the following thought process: If you or the person with whom you interact and reside is asymptomatic and to the best of their knowledge have not been in contact with a positive case, this is not being recommended for quarantine by the CDC.

However, please disclose this information confidentially to your building principal. We have provided the same advisories and information to the staff community.



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In the meantime, please do your best to remain healthy, calm, and vigilant. I thank you for your time and attention. If you have general questions about Coronavirus, you may call the NJ Department of Health COVID Hotline 1-800-222-1222.

Sincerely,

Michelle Green

Director of Operations

Joseph Roy

School Nurse