Dear Lindenhurst Community,

As media outlets report on the spread of the coronavirus, I understand that your questions and concerns are increasing. I assure you that as a district we are monitoring the situation and reviewing all information daily, participating in weekly webinars and attending meetings offered by the state and local authorities. We continue to follow the recommendations and guidelines of the New York State Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control for cleaning and disinfecting our buildings to the highest allowable standard.

Director of Facilities Robert Cozzetto will proactively meet with all heads and chief custodians districtwide to discuss updates and review protocols. It is important to note, however, that all protocols and disinfectants utilized in the district currently meet – and in some cases exceed – the recommended guidelines provided by the CDC and EPA.

As referenced in an earlier letter to the community, the district made the decision 10 years ago to expand upon the daily cleaning and disinfecting practices to include the addition of Virex, a germicidal disinfectant that complies with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation website approves this product for the disinfection of institutions such as schools, nursing homes, hotels and hospitals, as well as, COVID-19. More information on Virex II 256 can be found at http://www.dec.ny.gov/nyspad/products?0.

Transportation utilized by the district is provided through Suffolk Transportation Services. According to an STS memorandum, the following enhanced measures will be taken to proactively safeguard their transportation system.

- All fleets will be thoroughly disinfected.
- All drivers will be provided with a disinfectant spray bottle to be utilized on high contact areas.
- Ongoing cleaning and disinfecting will take place within the company wash bays.
- Hand sanitizing stations are being installed within maintenance facilities and all driver rooms.

To ensure a healthy school environment, and further prevent the spread of germs, state and federal officials recommend practicing the following standard health etiquette outlined below:

- **Wash hands frequently by following these five steps every time.** (This message will be reinforced at the building level via daily announcements.)

  1. **Wet** your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), turn off the tap, and apply soap.
  2. **Lather** your hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails.
  3. **Scrub** your hands for at least 20 seconds. Need a timer? Hum the “Happy Birthday” song from beginning to end twice.
  4. **Rinse** your hands well under clean, running water.
  5. **Dry** your hands using a clean towel or air dry them.

Additionally, all district buildings are equipped with approved hand sanitizer dispensers in areas where a sink is not available (i.e. cafeterias, gymnasiums and at stations where employees are required to clock in and out.)
Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
Avoiding contact with someone who is sick.
Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue and put the used tissue in a waste basket. If you don’t have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve, not your hands.

It is the policy of the district that children be fever-free for 24 hours before returning to school. Respectfully, you are asked to remain home from school and see a physician if unwell. Remembering these practices will help prevent the spread of any illness and disease.

As per the NYSDOH, there is no present need to cancel school or school-related events; however, the safety and well-being of our students and staff are our greatest concern. As such, conversations are taking place regarding emergency protocols should the NYSDOH recommend any change.

All districts throughout the state are required to have an Emergency Management Plan in place in preparation for myriad circumstances and crises. This document evolves as situations warrant and can be found on the homepage of the district website for your review.

It is imperative that we, as a community, remain calm, cautious and informed with the most current information. Please take the time to discuss with your children the importance of health etiquette and mitigate any concerns they may have about COVID-19.

The following are links to additional COVID-19 resources and two parent resources to assist you in your conversations with children:


The first link is to a publication from the National Association of School Psychologists and the second link is to a BrainPOP video.


https://www.brainpop.com/health/diseasesinjuriesandconditions/coronavirus/

If you have any questions or require further information you may contact the NYSDOH Novel Coronavirus Hotline at 1-888-364-3065.

Sincerely,

Daniel Giordano
Superintendent of Schools