



March 10, 2020

Dear Hope Academy Families,

It is important that you know we are working diligently to keep everyone safe and abreast of any new information regarding COVID-19. In addition to our letter that went home on Friday, March 6, 2020, yesterday evening we received information from the Monmouth County Health Commission that a resident of Little Silver tested “presumed positive” for COVID-19. At the present time, the working assumption is that person contracted the virus while attending a conference out-of-state. There is an older resident of Hazlet that was confirmed as well. Although these developments are concerning, we should not act out of fear.

To date, Hope Academy Administration has participated in meetings with multiple Monmouth County Superintendents, State Department of Health Officials, our School’s Physician and the NJDOE. The Department of Health is strongly recommending that symptomatic individuals immediately contact their primary health care physician regarding testing measures. We should all continue to take common-sense precautions to minimize any risk. This will also give health officials time to continue evaluating the situation and provide us with further direction and guidance. We are monitoring this very closely and will be sending out additional information as it becomes available.

**As a precautionary measure, Hope Academy is canceling the Food portion of International Day (Please do not send in any food on Thursday, March 12, 2020 and we are not having parents in the building). Additionally, Hope Academy will be closed Saturday, 3/14/2020, to allow the custodial staff to perform additional deep cleaning of the building inclusive of all carpets.**

Administration is continuing to work on a response plan should the school have to close for an extended period of time. **Please be sure to respond to the survey that went home on March 9, 2020 inquiring about your child’s ability to access the Internet.**

**Prevention:** Do not send your child to school if they are sick; those with a fever should remain at home until they are “fever free” for a minimum of 24 hours.

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Keep your hands away from your mouth, eyes, and nose
- Do not share food or drinks
- Contact your healthcare provider immediately if you experience symptoms

**Resources:**

Local information about COVID19 can be found at the Monmouth County Health Department [website](#).

Reliable and timely updates are provided by the Center for Disease control at [CDC.gov](#).

The NJDOH has provided these guidelines for schools in the event of a disease outbreak:

<https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/schoolhealth.shtml>.

In Continued Partnership,  
DaVisha T. Pratt, Chief School Administrator/Principal