



March 2, 2020

Dear Parents and Staff,

Concerns about a particularly difficult flu season as well as Coronavirus have been sweeping our region and country. We've received a number of questions about what the West Chester Area School District is doing to prepare and/or prevent an outbreak.

Our school district, like others across our area, has been in close contact with the Chester County Department of Health. They're providing information and direction (and they are getting direction from the national Centers for Disease Control.) If there were to be a mass outbreak of the flu or this flu-like Coronavirus, state and local authorities will make a determination if places like schools should close.

For our part, we have stepped up nightly cleaning and sanitation of our schools, as we do during every flu season. We continue to ask our parents to please keep sick children home until they're fever free for 24 hours, and to advise the school nurse if a child has been diagnosed with a flu or contagious disease.

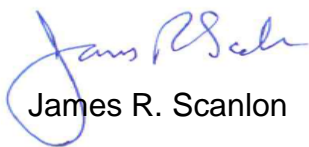
In the case of any extended illness, we provide assignments via Schoology, our online learning management system.

A few notes about the Coronavirus that we feel may be helpful to consider:

1. The CDC says that currently the common flu is of much greater concern than Coronavirus.
2. The best way to protect yourself and your family (according to health officials) is to take the same precautions you would with the flu: frequently wash your hands, and sneeze into your sleeve, not your hands.
3. So far, children seem to be in the low-risk category with this illness.
4. This is not the first time that we've dealt with concerns about a pandemic. Over the last 15 years we've had similar alerts about H1N1 (swine flu), and SARS. Most have resulted in very few serious U.S. cases.

For more information, visit websites for the [CDC](#) website and the [Chester County Health Department](#).

Sincerely,



James R. Scanlon