



February 3, 2020

Dear Families,

I am writing to assure you that we are closely monitoring updates about the coronavirus. If the NYC Department of Health instructs us to take any specific precautions or steps, we will of course notify you. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the current risk to New Yorkers is low. Currently, common strains of flu in the United States pose a greater risk to public health than the 2019n-Corov. *(If you have not submitted documentation of your child's required flu vaccine administration, please do so now by emailing a copy directly to me at amw@mapc.com. Children who have not received this vaccine are not permitted at school, per DOH regulations.)*

The Department of Health recommends New Yorkers go about our daily lives, practicing the same precautions we do during cold and flu season to avoid the spread of any respiratory disease:

- Wash hands frequently with soap and warm water.
- Cover your mouth and nose with tissue or elbow when sneezing or coughing. Dispose of used tissues and wash hands immediately following use.
- In case of illness, MAPCDS children should remain home from school until they have been fever free without fever reducing medication for 24 hours.

At school, children wash their hands upon arrival, before eating, after bathroom use and after outdoor play. We provide tissues in the classroom and promote sanitary practices throughout the day, and clean classrooms every evening.

It is important to note that the unfamiliar nature of the 2019-n-Corov (coronavirus) is the main force behind public perception, with the potential to spark unnecessary safety measures, such as limiting travel around the city and wearing masks outside (unless otherwise directed by a healthcare provider). At the same time, the origin of the virus in China has spurred incidents of anti-Chinese sentiment. When discussing the risks of this novel virus (both real and perceived) - especially in the vicinity of your children - we urge you to stress the importance of removing the lens of race and ethnicity in order to identify the real challenges and respond to them accordingly.

Several resources are linked below to help us fully understand the status of the coronavirus and the flu.

For information regarding the coronavirus:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/>

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/health/health-topics/coronavirus.page>

For information regarding rising xenophobia in response to the coronavirus:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/30/world/asia/coronavirus-chinese-racism.html>

For information regarding the flu:

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/index.htm>

Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns.

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