

March 3, 2020

Dear Families,

Over the weekend, the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene confirmed the first case of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in New York City. While we all hoped this moment would not come, it was something the City has meticulously prepared for. At this time, it is important to listen to facts and not respond to fear. Despite our first confirmed case, New Yorkers remain at low risk for contracting the virus.

The health and safety of all of New York City students continues to be our first priority. As we monitor the situation, we are enhancing certain protocols and providing additional resources to schools within our buildings, including charter schools, such as providing CDC-approved cleaning agents and ensuring all bathrooms are continuously stocked with soap and paper towels. We are also keeping all of our latest information on our website at schools.nyc.gov/coronavirus.

As a reminder, it is critical that all New Yorkers continue to practice general viral infection prevention measures including:

- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue or sleeve
- Wash your hands regularly
- Avoid touching your face
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Get your flu shot – it's never too late
- Stay home if you're feeling sick. Call your doctor and let them know your symptoms and travel history.

We are in communication with charter school leaders to ensure they have the latest information and to support with questions that may arise.

Please read the [Frequently Asked Questions sheet](#) attached to this letter for more information, or visit nyc.gov/coronavirus at any time for important updates.

Sincerely,



Richard A. Carranza
Chancellor
New York City Department of Education