



CITY OF DANBURY
DANBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Mark D. Boughton
Mayor

Lisa Michelle Morrissey
Director of Health & Human Services

Sal Pascarella
Superintendent of Schools

February 27, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians and Community Members,

Many students and families in our District are aware of the current outbreak of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). We are writing to assure you that we are working in close collaboration with our City partners to take appropriate steps to reduce the risks to our community. Yesterday, we convened a meeting of key District and Community Leaders to review our plans and to begin to anticipate the impact that the spread of the virus could have here.

As you may already be aware, coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that commonly circulate throughout the world, and there is a small number of cases in the US. They cause illnesses ranging from the common cold to more severe illnesses such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS-CoV). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is working hard to learn as much as possible about this new virus so that we can better understand how it spreads and its associated illness. The CDC continues to share their information directly with us.

As of today, there are no known cases of Corona Virus in Danbury, but we know that outbreaks of new viral infections are always of public health concern. Although the current risk of exposure to COVID-19 in our area is low, the City of Danbury Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and Danbury Public Schools are working closely with the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health (CT DPH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), other federal agencies, and our clinical partners to share the most up to date information available.

The best thing you can do right now is to talk to your child about washing their hands frequently to lower the risk of spreading germs. You should not send students to school who might show any symptom of illness and seek medical attention if flu-like symptoms exist. Be sure to reach out to your child's school nurse if you have any concerns about your child's health, or to communicate an absence due to illness. In addition, custodians continue to clean schools thoroughly, and have included more intensive cleaning and disinfecting to assist with the reduction of touch points where germs and infection may be found.

District guidelines, along with helpful tips for families and community members to minimize the risk of illness, can be found on our websites at www.danbury-ct.gov/health and <https://www.danbury.k12.ct.us>, under Health Tab. We will continue to use our websites to share helpful information that you can use to minimize the risk to you, your family members, and other members of the community.

Best Regards,

Lisa Michelle Morrissey, MPH
Director of Health and Human Services
City of Danbury

Dr. Sal Pascarella, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools
Danbury Public Schools

Danbury Public Schools Sick Day Guidelines for Parents

To aid in minimizing the spread of illness in school, the following are helpful guidelines to follow when your child is sick and not well enough to participate in school:

Your child must stay home for:

- A temperature of 100°F or higher until he/she is fever free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication. Fever is a symptom indicating the presence of an illness.
- An undiagnosed rash.
- Vomiting in the past 24 hours.
- Diarrhea more than once in the last 24 hours.
- A severe cough, and/or chest congestion, a thick or constant nasal discharge, and/or sneezing, chills, or general body discomfort that will interfere with your child's ability to participate in his/her school day.
- A severe sore throat, and for 24 hours after the start of antibiotics if diagnosed with strep throat.
- A severe earache with or without fever.
- Pink eye with discharge until 24 hours after the start of antibiotic eye drops.
- Impetigo: Blister-like lesions that develop into crusted sores, generally located around the mouth or nose. Your child must remain home until receiving antibiotics for 24 hours and the sores are no longer draining.
- Ringworm: A fungal infection that causes a flat, red ring-shaped rash that may itch or burn. Your child should remain home until receiving 24 hours of anti-fungal treatment. Lesions are to remain covered in school.
- Chicken Pox: Even if your child has received the chickenpox vaccine, there is still a slight chance he/she may get a mild case. Your child must remain at home until all blisters have scabbed over, generally 5-7 days.

A child's ability to learn and perform in school can depend on how they feel physically. Keeping your child home when he/she is ill not only prevents the spread of illness in the school community but allows your child an opportunity to rest and recover.

Please be sure that the school has current phone contact information for you and your emergency contacts. If your child becomes sick at school, please have arrangements for your child to be picked up within 30 minutes.

Please contact the school nurse with any questions or concerns. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.