



Central Park East I Elementary School

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March 6, 2020

Dear Families,

News of the COVID-19 virus continues to unfold. I just participated in a webinar for New York City principals about preparations in schools. Here is some information as of this morning.

At the moment, there are no students in our public schools who are under quarantine, and none who have a confirmed case. There are no plans to close public schools.

The Centers for Disease Control has recommended products for deep cleaning, and our custodial staff already has them. At about 7:00 this morning, I walked onto the second floor while a cleaning was in progress. Every school's custodial staff will continue deep cleanings twice per week.

CPE1 can clean even more. We have large shipment of cleaning supplies expected to arrive on Monday. For extra cleaning, we will be able to use the same products given to our custodians.

The city has guidelines for what to do if a student or staff member is sick at school. It has not been proven yet that wearing a face mask can stop you from catching COVID-19, but face masks can help to keep people who are sick from spreading the virus. The city has sent us a supply of face masks, just in case.

Right now, washing (for at least twenty seconds) with lots of soap and water is recommended as the best step people can take. Our children are being encouraged to wash their hands more, and we are keeping the supply of soap flowing.

Our school system wants to make sure there is no extra pressure for sick children to come to school. If you have a fourth grader (or seventh grader), please know that absences due to COVID-19 will not be counted against any student's future application to middle school (or high school).

Again, we're being told that there are no plans now for public schools to be closed. We expect to learning joyously at CPE1.

-Gabriel