



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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[www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/health.html](http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/health.html)



## **2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19): Information for Hunterdon County's Schools**

**March 6, 2020**

The Hunterdon County Health Department and the Hunterdon County Office of Emergency Management, along with State and Federal partners continue to monitor the outbreak of Novel Coronavirus or COVID-19. The County is closely coordinating prevention and response efforts with representatives from every municipality in Hunterdon County, medical care providers, school districts and first responders.

### **About COVID- 19**

It is important to know the risk of COVID-19 to the general public is low, and there are currently no reported cases in Hunterdon County. Limited person-to-person spread is occurring in the United States, and we are continuing to learn about the Novel Coronavirus. We expect see more cases of COVID-19 as the availability of testing expands. The virus is likely spread through the coughs and sneezes of those who are ill, similar to influenza and other respiratory viruses. Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough and shortness of breath. Most people experience mild illness, however the elderly and immunocompromised may develop severe illness which can result in death.

### **School Community Preparedness**

The County is in regular communication with all school districts in Hunterdon County, and a situational briefing was held March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 with all County Superintendents. The Hunterdon County Health Department and Office of Emergency Management will continue to provide real-time updates and guidance as we learn more in this rapidly evolving situation.

At this time, there is no need to cancel school or social events. However, students should be kept home whenever they are ill, particularly with fever and cough. The Health Department urges parents to comply with their school's sick exclusion policy: Students should be kept out of school until fever-free for 24-hours, without using fever-reducing medication. School administration is advised to conduct routine cleaning of surfaces within their facilities using EPA-approved products.

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Parents and students are encouraged to take practical actions to stay healthy from respiratory viruses, such as Influenza or COVID-19:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick,
- Wash your hands often with soap and water. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available,
- Clean and disinfect surfaces frequently,
- Stay home if you are sick. This allows you to recover and protects others who may be immunocompromised from becoming ill.
- Review and follow CDC travel advisories when planning travel. CDC travel advisories are available <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>
- Stay up-to-date on COVID-19 from reliable sources. The New Jersey Department of Health's (NJDOH) Novel Coronavirus Call center is open 24/7 and available to the public 1-800-222-1222.

Please visit the following websites for situation updates:

Hunterdon County Health Department

<http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/coronavirus.html>

New Jersey Department of Health

<https://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/topics/ncov.shtml>

The Center for Disease Control

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>