



March 13, 2020

Dear Pineland Families,

I hope this letter finds you well. I would like to update you on the course of action that the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) and the Department of Health may be taking in case of an outbreak of COVID-19 and how it may affect us. As a solution to slow down the spread of COVID-19, health officials may require schools to temporarily close. If that occurs, the NJDOE has indicated that any day in which students are out of school due to COVID-19 and have access to a home instruction type education, will count as a day of school towards the 180-day requirement. We were told that home instruction may include online instruction or assignments packaged together and sent home with your child.

The Department of Education has asked all districts to start to plan for a possible school closure. We have met and are in the process of finalizing our plans. Due to the variety of individual needs that our students have, Pineland Learning Center has decided to create individualized packets of school assignments. These assignments should be able to be completed by the students with minimal support. These packets will be sent home prior to any potential school closing.

We have not had any concerns at Pineland about students or staff being ill. However, there have been cases confirmed in New Jersey. We are following all the advice from the CDC. We have spoken to our staff and students about best practices pertaining to minimizing the spread of germs. We are constantly washing down all solid surfaces (desks, phones, keyboards, doorknobs, etc.) with appropriate cleaners. We are using disinfectant spray and wipes as needed. As a reminder, the following are a few things that you can do to help reduce the spread of viruses in our schools and community:

- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds concentrating on the fingertips. Hand sanitizers may also be used to limit the spread of germs;
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands;
- Stay home if you are sick. This is as much for your benefit as those that will be near you at work/school;
- Avoid close contact with those that are sick or showing symptoms of illness; and
- Sneeze into your inside elbow or into disposable tissues instead of your hands.

We appreciate your support and partnership as we work through this process.

Sincerely,

Lisa A. Lamb  
School Program Director