

# ***Bristol Borough School District***

*1776 Farragut Avenue  
Bristol, PA 19007*

**Rose Minniti, Ed.D**  
Superintendent of Schools

**Christopher McHugh**  
Business Manager



**David Truelove, Esq.**  
Solicitor

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## **Dear Parents & Guardians:**

Over the last several days, you and your family have likely heard reports from the news media and others about the necessity for state and local officials, including school districts, to prepare for the potential spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19). In an effort to ensure that our school district is prepared for any potential of such an event and to understand the impact on our students, staff, and local community, I attended a countywide forum today hosted by the Bucks County Intermediate Unit in Doylestown, PA. Amongst those attending were personnel from the Bucks County Health Department, Bucks County Emergency Services, all six Bucks County hospitals, all thirteen Bucks County School Districts and three Career and Technical Centers (CTCs), Delaware Valley University, and the Bucks County Community College.

It was shared, that as of this morning, there are no known or reported cases of coronavirus in Bucks County or in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. It was also shared that the coronavirus is transmitted like the common flu virus and can be eliminated with good cleaning and personal hygiene practices. As we are currently in our high-flu season, our schools already practice standard cleaning procedures each day, and the Bucks County Health Department offered assurances this morning that those cleaning procedures will successfully kill the virus on contact surfaces. In addition, our school district already has procedures in place to respond to reports of communicable illnesses, including the coronavirus. The Bucks County Health Department, along with the Pennsylvania Department of Health, issues guidance and direction to health care providers and schools when necessary during a potential outbreak situation. Our district works directly with these health agencies in order to keep our students, staff, and greater community safe. The Bucks County Health Department will notify us of any confirmed cases of the coronavirus in our region and will provide guidance and information for distribution to families.

You can find more information about the coronavirus at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC Website](https://www.cdc.gov))<sup>i</sup> which is updated frequently with information about the

coronavirus. The CDC also offers helpful [FAQs<sup>ii</sup>](#) about the coronavirus. In addition, the [PA Department of Health Coronavirus Website<sup>iii</sup>](#) is a good source of information.

Some tips from the website to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses, such as coronavirus, include:

- Cover coughs or sneezes with your elbow. Do not use your hands!
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- If soap and water are not available, use a 60% or higher alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Clean surfaces frequently, including countertops, light switches, cell phones, electronic devices, remotes, and other frequently touched items.
- Stay home from work, school, and errands when you are sick to help prevent others from catching your illness. Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

Our school district will continue to work closely with the Bucks County Intermediate Unit, county leaders, and state officials to keep you informed about developments in this region and any resulting actions that may be necessary. I want to assure you that our school district is fully cooperating with federal, state, and county recommendations regarding the flu, coronavirus, and other communicable illnesses. Our district will continue to share information as it becomes available

The safety of our students and staff remains a priority. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your child's principal or you may also contact me.

Sincerely,

*Rose Minniti*

Dr. Rose Minniti  
Superintendent of Schools  
Bristol Borough School District

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

<sup>ii</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html>

<sup>iii</sup> <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx>