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March 23, 2020

Dear Parents and Community Members,

Late this afternoon, Monday, March 23, 2020, the Cherry Hill School District was notified by a family member, that the parent of one of our students has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19).

Our hearts go out to this parent and family during this difficult time. Please have compassionate thoughts and pray for them.

As you know, Friday, March 13, 2020 was the last day we held school in the district. After we closed, Governor Murphy issued an executive order to close all schools indefinitely. The parent was in attendance at the High School East production of *Legally Blonde*, on Friday, March 6, 2020. The parent is currently hospitalized and the parent's family members are self-quarantining. They and the Camden County Department of Health are in the process of notifying individuals with whom the parent has come into contact since March 6, 2020. We have not received any reports of other students, family members or staff members experiencing illnesses with symptoms resembling those of coronavirus.

COVID-19 is thought to be spread via person-to-person contact through contaminated air droplets from coughing and sneezing by an infected person. As with controlling the spread of other viruses, we urge everyone to take the following preventive measures:

- Wash your hands regularly, especially after using the restroom and before preparing or consuming food. Using soap and hot water, wash for about 20 seconds. Be sure to also wash your fingertips.
- Avoid coughing or sneezing into your hands or in the air. Always try to cough or sneeze into a tissue, then throw the tissue away. If you don't have a tissue, cough/sneeze into your arm.
- As much as you can, avoid touching your eyes, mouth, and nose.

The symptoms of coronavirus are similar to the regular seasonal influenza and include fever, coughing, and shortness of breath. Some people with coronavirus have reported additional symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat, nausea, lethargy, lack of appetite, vomiting, and diarrhea. In some situations, the virus can develop into pneumonia.

Individuals who need medical care should call their medical provider to report their illness prior to seeking care at a clinic, physician's office, or hospital. Parents of students exhibiting flu-like symptoms or staff exhibiting flu-like symptoms are asked to contact the Camden County Health Department.

We are closely monitoring this situation and will provide you with updates as we know more. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Dr. Joseph Meloche  
Superintendent