



# STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: January 29, 2020 (*Updated Feb. 3 with new link providing Information for K-12 Schools*)  
To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads, Administrators of Nonpublic Schools  
Route To: Building Principals, School Nurses, School Staff  
From: Lamont O. Repollet, Ed.D.  
Commissioner of Education

## Guidance and Resources Regarding 2019 Novel Coronavirus

The New Jersey Department of Education and the New Jersey Department of Health have been working collaboratively to respond with information for school communities on the 2019 Novel (new) Coronavirus that was first identified last month in Wuhan, China.

Although this virus is understandably a cause for concern, it is important for New Jersey residents to know that the risk to the general public remains low. However, it is necessary for school nurses and other school officials to remain up-to-date with the latest information on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) so they can disseminate timely and accurate information to staff, students and families.

As of January 28, there were five confirmed cases in the United States and no confirmed cases in New Jersey.

The Department of Health's [2019-nCoV webpage](#) contains extensive information, including:

- [Information for K-12 Schools](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- Travel Information:
  - [Travel Advisory](#) from the U.S. Department of State
  - [Travel Health Alert Notices](#) (English and Chinese)
  - [CDC Travel Advisory](#) to avoid all nonessential travel to China(Districts with travel plans should continue to monitor the websites for updates and alerts.)

To ensure the public has access to factual information to alleviate fears and dispel rumors, the New Jersey Department of Health has established a hotline (1-800-222-1222) to answer questions about the 2019 Novel Coronavirus. Operated by the Poison Information and Education System, the 24-hour public hotline is staffed with trained healthcare professionals and can accommodate callers in multiple languages.

Additionally, please be reminded of requirements pursuant to [N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.2\(d\)](#) that each school district shall immediately report by telephone to the health officer of the jurisdiction in which the school is located any communicable diseases identified as reportable pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:57-1, whether confirmed or presumed.

For your information, the New Jersey Department of Health [Local Public Health Directory](#) lists all local health departments in the state.

The New Jersey Department of Education will continue to keep school districts updated through methods such as Broadcast memos, social media and webinars. In addition, the New Jersey Department of Health encourages school officials to keep up-to-date on the latest information by checking their [2019-nCoV webpage](#) and following them on [Twitter](#) @njdeptofhealth, [Facebook](#) /njdeptofhealth, [Instagram](#)@njdeptofhealth and [Snapchat](#) @njdoh.

c: Members, State Board of Education  
Garden State Coalition of Schools  
NJDOE Staff  
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network  
NJ LEE Group