



# Essex County Schools of Technology

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March 6, 2020

We are monitoring the alerts from the CDC, New Jersey Department of Education, the New Jersey Department of Health and the Essex County Health Department. Currently, we do not have any incidents of the virus in any of our schools. We have, however, created a few protocols as well as our *Essex County Schools of Technology Districtwide Educational Continuity Plan* to prepare ourselves in the case of school closings.

To decrease our exposure to potential health risks we are asking everyone to please observe the following protocols:

1. If you feel that your child is ill, please keep him/her out of school. They should not return to school unless they have been fever-free without medication for 24 hours. If your child will be out for a longer period, please communicate with your respective schools if you would like assignments from his/her teachers; contact numbers and email addresses for each school are listed below.

If a student does show up at school and presents symptoms of the virus, such as fever, cough or difficulty breathing, the student will be placed away from others and asked to wear a face mask until they are sent home.

**Payne Tech**

(973) 412-2203

[elove@essextech.org](mailto:elove@essextech.org)

**Newark Tech**

(973) 412-2266

[cmorales@essextech.org](mailto:cmorales@essextech.org)

**West Caldwell Tech**

(973) 412-2232

[brogers@essextech.org](mailto:brogers@essextech.org)

2. Our District recommends that all families with a child who (within the past two weeks) have traveled to an area of the world, or within the United States, that may be highly impacted by the Coronavirus, to please contact their child's principal and/or school nurse prior to sending their child back to school. With the upcoming Spring Break, we ask that parents consider this in their vacation planning and monitor the news regarding the spread of the virus in the areas they may be visiting. Once again, if you suspect your child has been exposed to the virus, even if he/she does not show any symptoms, please observe the previous protocol

and keep you child home and make sure that they are fever-free without medication for 24 hours before they return with a Doctor's note.

3. As an additional precautionary measure, our schools will be conducting an enhanced daily cleaning regimen at all of our schools. Our facilities team is working closely with our nursing departments to identify illness trends so specific classrooms can be disinfected on a case by case basis. Hand sanitizing stations will be added and students will be reminded of the importance of hand washing.
  
4. Our Virtual High Schools are being completed so that they will be available to all students and parents in the event we would have to close schools for a period of time. Currently, teachers are preparing at least two weeks of lesson plans to prepare for this scenario. Each school will have its own site that will have access to each teacher's e-Learning platform, such as Google Classroom and/or Moodle Site. We are surveying the students now to ensure that all children have access to the internet in their homes. Important contacts for the administration, guidance and nursing departments for each school will also be provided. All of this will be found on our main page at [www.essextech.org](http://www.essextech.org). In the event one of our schools, or all three, are closed we will provide updates on our website as well as through our robo-call system.

Additionally, we would also like to remind you of the recommended precautions for preventing the flu and other viral infections:

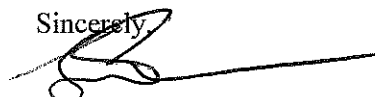
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue or do so into your sleeve, not your hands.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Wash hands often, with soap and water, for at least 20 seconds, especially after coughing or sneezing.
- Avoid people who are sick.
- Get a flu shot – it's not too late to be protected.
- Clean and disinfect frequently-touched surfaces and objects – especially cell phones and other electronic devices that come in contact with the public.

Please continue to monitor our website for updated information.

If you have general questions about Coronavirus, you may call the NJ Department of Health COVID Hotline 1-800-222-1222.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our students and staff safe and healthy.

Sincerely,



Dr. James M. Pedersen  
Superintendent of Schools