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Dear Parents and Guardians,

In our efforts to keep you informed, the district and your building principal are sharing news releases regarding the coronavirus, now being called COVID 19. The Newport Public School District is taking this event very seriously and asking all our staff, teachers, and students to follow the recommendations of the Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. We are in constant communication with Dr. Alexander-Scott and members of the RI Department of Health. A press conference was held on Sunday, March 1, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. where Dr. Alexander-Scott reiterated that there is a low risk for COVID-19 in Rhode Island at the present time. Dr. Alexander-Scott said it was highly unlikely to be infected from contact with a secondary contact who is not showing symptoms.

Our efforts are being coordinated by the RI Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, based on facts, science and epidemiology. Teachers are being provided with cleaning supplies and our custodians will be following Department of Health standard operating procedures for cleaning. We have attached guidelines regarding preventative measures to keep everyone well. Please see the RI Department of Health website for more information: <https://health.ri.gov/>.

The important message is to stay calm and listen to and follow the Department of Health recommendations which we will continue to forward to you. The school department has been working with RIDE and the DOH preparing as best as possible with the information we have to manage this situation, as well as the City of Newport to help ensure our efforts are coordinated and we work together to help support everyone. We will continue to send messages as we receive and encourage everyone to stay tuned.

Sincerely,

Colleen Burns Jermain, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools