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Dear Ventnor Families:

The health and safety of our students, staff, and community is a top priority of the Ventnor School District. With so much in the media about the Coronavirus (COVID19), I am providing you with information about how our school district is addressing this issue as well as reminders and updates related to your children. As superintendent, I continuously receive detailed written information from the State, and on March 3rd many superintendents participated in a conference call with Governor Phil Murphy and Commissioner of NJ Public Health, Mrs. Judith Persichilli. Please carefully read the following information.

General Information about COVID19-

- As per Mrs. Persichilli, the general public in NJ is at low risk for this virus.
- The guidance we have clearly indicates healthy people should not wear masks. Masks should only be worn by medical professionals while treating patients and those that are actually ill.
- The virus has been seen mainly in older adults, especially those with underlying health issues, and/or compromised immune systems. Younger children are more resistant to this virus. In the limited cases in which a child has been diagnosed with COVID19, the symptoms have been milder.
- For COVID or any other type of infectious disease, the district receives guidance and support from the Atlantic County Department of Health (ACDOH). Additionally, we have the ability to contact ACDOH or State Officials at any time.
- For more information, the State has a Coronavirus hotline 1-800-222-1222 as well as a website <http://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/ncov.shtml>. These resources are available to the general public.

School Guidelines and Health Tips-

- Keep children at home when they are sick. This is particularly important if they have a fever (100 degrees Fahrenheit or 37.7 Celsius or above). Children must be fever-free without fever reducing medicine for 24 hours to return to school. Children should also be kept home if they have severe, uncontrolled, rapid coughing, wheezing, and/or difficulty breathing.
- If a child comes to school with the above listed symptoms and/or develops them during the school day, the child will be sent to the nurse's office. Upon confirming the symptoms, the nurse will contact you to come and pick up your child. While your child is waiting, your child will be

isolated from the general population and be required to wear a mask. Note that this is based on guidance from the Department of Health.

- Healthy children should not be wearing masks. If a healthy child comes to school wearing a mask, the parent/guardian will be contacted. Since the guidance from the Center for Disease Control indicates that healthy people not wear masks, we will direct the child to remove the mask.
- Common practices to avoid the spread of germs are the best defense against COVID19. Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds- especially before eating and after blowing your nose, coughing, and/or sneezing. When soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Avoid touching your nose, mouth, or eyes, particularly with unwashed hands. Cover your cough or sneeze into your elbow or shoulder not into your hand or the general air. Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

What the Ventnor School District is Doing-

- All classrooms and offices are cleaned on a daily basis. During flu season cleaning practices are increased and enhanced. Our facilities supervisor, Mr. Ron Fenton, is closely overseeing all custodial staff with specific directions regarding daily cleaning. Extra attention to common areas such as door handles, water fountains, light switches, and shared computers are emphasized.
- Superintendent of Schools will continue to share all updated information received from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Atlantic County Office of Education, and Atlantic County Health Department with all administrators on a daily basis. Information received has been provided to all staff by building principals, school nurses, and facilities supervisor. Guidelines for staff attendance and behaviors are the same as for our students.
- Teachers and other staff members are reminding children about healthy practices such as handwashing.
- Our school nurses received more detailed information about handling of children that are ill. They also may wear masks while treating students. They are available to answer many of your questions about COVID19.
- Student and staff attendance and absenteeism are being monitored with particular attention to illness as the reason for the absence. Please continue to call the school to report illness per school policy if your child is sick.
- We will continue to review information provided by the State and take additional measures if needed. We are also seeking direction from the Department of Education and are currently making plans in the event our district is affected by an outbreak.

Once again, the health and safety of our students, staff, and community is a top priority of the Ventnor School District. Our staff remains committed to the safety and well-being of your children. As needed, additional information will be provided to you and will also be available on our district website. If you have any specific questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to your school's main office. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Dr. Eileen Johnson
Superintendent