

Dear Parents and Faculty,

We are writing to offer you an update on the events of the last several days regarding the recent exposure of our community to the COVID19 virus. Please be sure to read this entire email.

Since this past Monday, we have been in constant contact with the health department. Today, members of the administration of the Frisch School had a meeting with the Commissioner of the Health Department, Dr. Judith Persichili, and the Commissioner of Education, Dr. Lamont Repollet. We reviewed the events that occurred from February 23 through today, March 5.

Twenty-eight students in our school community were exposed to an individual, who on March 3, was diagnosed as a confirmed case of the 2019 Coronavirus (COVID-2019) while in Westchester County, New York on Saturday, February 22 and Sunday, February 23. Those students returned to school on Monday, February 24. Some of the students from this group then participated in the Junior Freeze-Fest in Quebec City, Canada, from Wednesday, February 26, through Sunday, March 1.

Also, on Sunday, March 1, our school played a hockey match against the SAR High School located in Riverdale, NY. As you know, a student who attends that school has been quarantined after testing positive for the virus.

On Tuesday, March 3, those twenty-eight students (twenty-six students from Westchester and two students from Teaneck, NJ), who attended the bat mitzvah or services at the Young Israel of New Rochelle were advised to stay home from school and self-quarantined until Monday, March 9.

Recently, one of the self-quarantined students began showing symptoms of the virus and is in the process of getting tested.

Next Steps

After speaking with the Commissioners of Education and of Health of the State of New Jersey, the school has decided to take the following steps:

To ensure that we are keeping our students and staff safe, Frisch will be closed on Friday, March 6, through Tuesday, March 10, in order to sanitize and clean the building. As of now, we are planning to reopen the school on Wednesday, March 11, after the planned holiday. This will give us ample time to assess our situation.

Over the next few days, we will be monitoring our student population and providing our school community with any pertinent updates regarding the virus. At the same time, we are creating opportunities for remote learning if necessary. Please remember that members of our school community are still at low risk for contracting the virus, and we are acting with an abundance of caution.

If your student or anyone in your home is displaying any symptoms associated with the virus, please let us know. The New Jersey Department of Health has issued guidance on steps to follow to help prevent the spread of coronavirus.

Steps you can take to prevent spread of flu and the common cold will also help prevent coronavirus:

Wash hands often with soap and water. If not available, use hand sanitizer.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands

Avoid contact with people who are sick

Stay home while you are sick and avoid contact with others

Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing

We cannot emphasize enough the importance of organized coordination to prevent the spread of the virus in our community. If you have any questions or concerns, please email us at theacademicoffice@frisch.org.

You may also call the NJ Department of Health 24-hour hotline for important information:
1-800-222-1222

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support. We will continue to keep those individuals who have been affected by this virus and its consequences in our hearts and tefillot.

Rabbi Eli Ciner
Principal