



February 28, 2020

Dear Ridgewood Public School Community,

We continue to make progress on the preparatory phase of the Orchard School Remediation Plan, as well as acquiring information requested by the community. Since my February 14, 2020 letter, the following items have been addressed.

- On February 24, 2020, I presented an update on the Orchard Remediation at the Public Board of Education meeting. This information can be accessed by clicking on the link: [Orchard Remediation Plan](#) or by going to: www.ridgewood.k12.nj.us (*Our District – Public Information – Orchard Remediation Plan*).
- On February 26, 2020, a LAN Associates Licensed Site Remediation Professional (LSRP) provided his opinion on the Remedial Action Workplan (RAW) that was submitted and approved by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP). The LAN LSRP agreed with the RAW, as presented by WSP.
- This week, WSP submitted applications for the permits needed to complete the summer remediation work planned for the Orchard School Site. These documents will be posted to the district website early next week.
 - Ridgewood Major Soil Permit
 - Bergen County Soil Conservation District Permit
 - NJDEP General Permit (GP4)
- I have again contacted the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) to request a meeting with the Ridgewood Community as soon as possible.

In addition to the Orchard update, I am providing an update on the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-2019). We are actively monitoring this emerging situation and planning for its potential impact on our community. Although there are no reported cases in our area and the [CDC's Situation Summary](#) from February 27, 2020 indicates that the current immediate health risk from COVID-2019 is considered low, it is always prudent to take precautionary measures and establish a plan of action. Previous communication regarding COVID-2019 can be accessed on the district website by clicking on the link: [Ridgewood Health Notices](#) or by going to: www.ridgewood.k12.nj.us (*Our District--Public Information – Health Notices*).

What we have been doing:

- We are reminding students to wash their hands.
- We are making sure that “Purell” dispensers are filled at all times. If you are in a building and determine that a dispenser is empty, please contact the main office.
- We are wiping down surfaces daily, as well as cleaning “high touch” areas nightly and during the day when possible. We are using a hospital-grade disinfectant.
- We have had a few situations where people have traveled back from areas in the world that have been heavily impacted, and they have volunteered to quarantine for the designated time.



Impacted families have been very accommodating.

- The NJDOH does not recommend the closure of schools for outbreaks of infectious disease. The closure of schools is an administrative decision and would only be made in consultation with public health officials and district medical personnel.
- If schools are closed or students need to be dismissed, I will communicate this information directly to parents.
- We will follow [NJDOH](#) and [CDC](#) for updates and keep you informed.

What we all can be doing:

- Avoid contact with people who are sick and keep your children home when they are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue and then throw it in the trash.

Finally, the district will always act in the best interest of our students and staff. I ask everyone to try to remain calm and read through my past letters for important information. The worst reaction we can have is panic. I hope that all of this planning and worry are for nothing.

I wish you all the best of health!

Sincerely,



Daniel Fishbein, Ed.D
Superintendent of Schools