

## **COVID-19 Robocall Script 2**

Read by: Superintendent Shafer

Audience: All PPS Families and Staff

Broadcast times: Monday, March 9th, 6:30 p.m.

Languages: English and Spanish

This is Paterson Public Schools Superintendent Eileen Shafer.

By now, you may have read the news that there is a patient at St. Joseph's Hospital who has tested positive for COVID-19, the novel coronavirus.

I want to reassure you we are doing everything possible to protect our students and staff.

Every night, schools are cleaned and disinfected on touch points such as doorknobs, desks, handrails, bathroom fixtures, water fountains and other equipment.

The Facilities Department has begun delivering disinfecting wipes to all schools for use in classrooms. They are also ensuring that bathrooms are fully stocked with soap and paper towels.

By now, your child should have brought home a letter from me outlining precautions to help protect against the coronavirus.

This letter can also be found on the "COVID-19 novel coronavirus" page on the district's website. This page is being updated daily with information on what measures the district is taking to prepare for the virus, as well as information from public health authorities about how we can protect ourselves from it.

Please be assured that we are following all guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and the Paterson Health Department. We also have staff participating in all of Governor Murphy's conference calls on the coronavirus.

To date, there are no reported cases of students or district staff testing positive for the novel coronavirus in Paterson. If that changes, the district will respond swiftly to protect students and staff, and follow county and city public health protocols.

Last week, I cancelled student trips to Japan and Italy. Today, I have suspended all field trips and professional travel, both in and out of state, until further notice. The reason I made these decisions is to reduce the potential of our students and staff being exposed to anyone who may have been exposed to the virus.

Today, our Academic Services team began working with supervisors and teachers to prepare contingency plans to keep students instruction moving forward if we need to close one or more schools due to the virus. We are asking parents and guardians to help with this effort by completing a brief survey that will ask about your child's access to technology and the internet at home. Your quick and thorough responses will help put us in the best position to continue learning experiences for your child.

In order for the district to respond directly to any questions you may have about the virus, we have established an Information Call Center. Callers who record their questions at the call center will get a response from the district within 24 hours. District staff will check messages regularly throughout each day, Monday through Friday. English speakers should call 973-321-0609. For Spanish, call 973-321-0611. For Arabic, call 973-321-0610. For Bangali, call 973-321-0612. The phone numbers will be posted to the district's website and social media accounts as soon as possible.

We are continuing to meet with stakeholders both in and outside of the school district. Tomorrow, I will be meeting with all of the district's school principals to continuing our preparedness efforts against the virus. On Wednesday, Deputy Superintendent Susana Peron will hold the first meeting of the district's Task Force on COVID-19 Preparedness.

We will keep families and staff informed of all of the measures the district is taking with regard to the virus. Please encourage your children to regularly wash their hands and take all other precautions to be safe.