



# PAUL CUFFEE SCHOOL

A Maritime Charter School for Providence Youth

March 2, 2020

Dear Families:

Paul Cuffee School values the health and well-being of its students, staff and families. The purpose of this letter is to provide you information about COVID-19, known as coronavirus, and the School's efforts to reduce the risk of spreading viruses. This letter will also serve as an important reminder to parents about the importance of keeping children home when they're sick.

The Department of Health urges Paul Cuffee School, its students, staff and families to take the necessary measures to help reduce the risk of spreading viruses throughout our school community. Our custodians provide daily disinfection of frequently touched surfaces (door handles, faucets and railings) and hard surfaces such as desks, tables, countertops and sinks. Our transportation vendor has instituted additional cleaning procedures as well.

We all should be reminded that there are several important ways to prevent the spread of respiratory illness:

- Wash your hands often using soap and water for at least 20 seconds and if unable to wash, to use alcohol-based hand sanitizers.
- Viruses are easily spread by touching eyes, nose and mouth. Coughs and sneezes should be covered with tissue or sleeve, not hands and we should not share drinks.

Facemasks are not allowed in school because they are to be used by people who are sick and sick people can't be in school.

The risk to our students remains low; however, we have had a number of cases of influenza and norovirus in recent weeks. Many of the precautions that help prevent colds, flu, and norovirus can help protect against other respiratory viruses so please take the appropriate precautions:

- Get a flu shot
- Avoid close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms
- Stay away from people who are sick and stay home when you are sick. This means a fever over 100°, vomiting, diarrhea or uncontrolled coughing. Students should remain home for at least 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing or other symptom-altering medicines.

Do not send your child to school if he or she is sick. If you send your child to school knowing that he or she is sick expecting the nurse to send the child home then you are putting the entire school community at risk for illness. Students should remain home for at least 24 hours without symptoms, without the use of fever-reducing or other symptom-altering medicines.

Links below are to the RI Department of Health COVID-19 fact sheets.

- English [COVID-19 Fact Sheet English](#)
- Spanish [COVID-19 Fact Sheet Spanish](#)
- Haitian Creole [COVID-19 Fact Sheet Haitian Creole](#)
- Portuguese [COVID-19 Fact Sheet Portuguese](#)

Again, we are sharing this information so you are aware. As global and local monitoring continues, we will keep you updated if need be.

Sincerely,

Chris Haskins  
Head of School