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Embracing Diversity. Driving Success.

Dear parents and guardians,

The City School District of New Rochelle is committed to continuous improvement in all areas. Part of this commitment requires us to reflect on best practices and lessons learned. As parents, guardians, building leaders, teachers and staff begin to reflect on what has transpired in recent days, it is incumbent on the District to remain open and transparent about areas where communication could and should have been clearer.

As a part of our commitment to improve in areas where we believe advancement is needed we recognize that our communication about “School Cleaning” as stated in the CSDNR “PREP” Plan should have been more accurate and timely.

In many of our communications we indicated that 60% alcohol based hand sanitizer was ordered and slated to be delivered to the schools by March 6. We failed to communicate that although the product was ordered and all tracking of the product showed delivery dates we communicated, it did not arrive. School building leaders, teachers and staff were rightfully confused and frustrated. We apologize for any confusion this caused. To try and mitigate this issue with the 60% alcohol based hand sanitizer school communities were provided the soap needed to wash hands in bathrooms. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends washing hands for 20 seconds and states that it is more effective than hand sanitizer.

The CSDNR is very proud of our state-of-the-art cleaning technology. Each school was being cleaned every night while schools were open. Schools were being disinfected three times a week via the use of the Protexus disinfectant machines that dispense a disinfecting mist. [Please watch this video](#) to see how this EvaClean Infection Prevention System works. This was also used as a part of the deep clean of Albert Leonard Middle School and Columbus Elementary School when staff members were asked to self-quarantine by the Westchester Department of Health.

What we should have more effectively communicated were expectations. Disinfecting is not the same as cleaning. A disinfected desk, for example, could easily be wiped with a wet cloth and lift dust and dirt. The mist is sprayed over the existing surface. Once

sprayed the surface is disinfected even if dirt was not fully wiped before the spray. By not communicating expectations, many professionals in the building were left wondering how we were claiming we disinfected spaces while surfaces seemed not to have been wiped down.

To continue to lead in the area of technology used to clean schools, The City School District of New Rochelle just invested in "BioProtect Coating Technology." This will set us apart nationally. "**BIOPROTECT™** is an EPA registered, water-based, antimicrobial **technology** that provides persistent and continuous protection. **BIOPROTECT™** is a preservative antimicrobial **coating** that can be applied to both porous and non-porous surfaces to inhibit the growth of odor causing, and stain causing bacteria." [Please view this video](#) to better understand the value of this investment.

How does this work? "When applied to a surface or incorporated into a material, BIOPROTECT™ forms a covalent bond with the substrate and creates a microbiostatic antimicrobial coating. The coating forms a nano-bed shield of spikes (self-assembling monolayer), each of which carry a positive charge that attracts the negatively charged bacteria. Once attracted, the molecular spikes pierce the cell and rupture its cell membrane, causing that bacterial microorganism to die."

The CSDNR is committed to investing in all aspects of what sets our district apart. This technology is scheduled to be in district next week. We will update you about its arrival and use. We will be using the time we have while schools are closed to fully clean and disinfect schools to welcome you back to the buildings you love on March 26, 2020.

We thank all of you for your thoughtful questions and concerns. We acknowledge that we could and should have communicated more effectively about bumps we encountered during the management of the district during this difficult time. We should have also taken the time to fully showcase our incredible cleaning technology. In future, we will work to ensure that building leaders and our teachers and staff are fully aware of issues which arise and that they have all of the most accurate and complete information. These professionals are on the frontline. The CSDNR thanks them for their tireless support of the CSDNR and our amazing students!

As we navigate through these unprecedented times we will continue to reflect on how we can improve and we will ensure that this cycle of continuous improvement is communicated to you.



Sincerely,
Dr. Laura Feijóo
Superintendent

