

THE NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
*Edward R. Murrow High  
School*

DESIGNATED A SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
**ALLEN BARGE, PRINCIPAL**

March 5, 2020

Dear Murrow community,

As you know, the health and safety of our students and staff is our top priority. We are committed to transparently sharing information to ensure clear understanding of coronavirus facts within our school community. That includes dispelling any circulating rumors or information not backed up by facts.

I would like to make clear that at this time no member of our student body or school staff has contracted or is under quarantine for the coronavirus. We are following citywide guidance to urge any member of our school community who is feeling sick to stay home. Please remember that it is cold and flu season, and no absence, for any amount of time, should be interpreted as a coronavirus-related absence.

I can reassure all of you that if the City of New York confirms a case of coronavirus within our school, the school community would be immediately notified by the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and myself, and next steps would be clearly outlined without delay. We are committed to ensuring clear and consistent communication with families.

At this time, it's important to listen to facts and not respond to fear. I encourage you to visit [nyc.gov/coronavirus](https://nyc.gov/coronavirus) at any time for important updates—including ways to fight stigma and bias around this issue. It's important we come together as a school community and support one another as neighbors and New Yorkers during this time. COVID-19 is not more likely found in any one race or nationality, and we must model inclusion and actively work to combat bias in our school and neighborhood.

Thank you for your partnership. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

Allen Barge  
Principal

---