

Riley, Kate

From: Jan Devereux <jan.devereux@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 1:54 PM
To: Riley, Kate
Cc: Peterson, Lisa
Subject: Thoughts on school design to protect against future virus spread

Dear Kate and Lisa,

I hope you are both coping as best as expected during this crisis. Please share this with the Tobin/VLUS design team:

I'm not an architect but I'm hoping that the designers have begun to think about incorporating lessons from the Covid pandemic into the new school design both on the interior and in the public spaces around outside the school.

For instance, I heard that teachers will need more efficient ways for students to wash their hands frequently and to be supervised doing so. Will water fountains be eliminated in favor of refillable bottle stations and those redesigned so that the water turns on with the press of a foot rather than hands?

There are probably ways to design restrooms and cafeterias to reduce the need for students' hands to touch things and to protect staff who are serving and preparing food.

Will the design reduce opportunities for students to needlessly touch interior surfaces (other than stair handrails) and use materials that are easier to disinfect daily? Can doors be opened by pressing a foot switch rather than a doorknob? Will we rely more on motion sensitive lights?

How can outdoor play areas be best designed for physical activities at times when we don't want people touching equipment? Open areas for running and walking with adequate space for social distancing will be important.

Finally it seems that the use of virtual instruction will become more routine and the classroom broadband and video capabilities will need to be strengthened. Instruction on Smart boards could be archived and re-used. If some students have to be quarantined, they should be able to participate remotely in what the rest of the class is doing.

These are only a few thoughts off the top of my head. I hope the design team is way ahead of me in their thinking.

Take care, everyone.

Jan Devereux
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