



CHITTENANGO CENTRAL SCHOOLS
Michael R. Eiffe, Superintendent
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March 13, 2020

Dear Chittenango Families:

In an effort to continue communication, in light of the very fluid and ever-evolving COVID-19 (coronavirus) situation, we wish to update you on information known to the District at this time. While there are currently no confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the Chittenango Central School District or Madison County, we are making preparations for that possibility. At the time of this writing, Governor Cuomo has declared a state of emergency in New York State as a response to this emerging health concern. As such the Governor has made several declarations you should be aware of relative to school closure and large group gatherings.

- The District will follow the direction of state and county health departments in deciding if schools need to be closed. If the Madison County Health Department confirms a case of COVID-19 in a district school, in accordance with the Governor's directive, that building will initially be shut down for a minimum of 24-hours while an investigation is conducted to determine if an extended closure period is required. The Health Department, in collaboration with District administration, will decide if additional buildings should be closed for an extended period of time.
- While there is no current guidance or directive to close school(s) from the Department of Health, families should be prepared/plan for the possibility of your student(s) being out of school for an extended period. Necessary child care arrangements should be made in the event that buildings are required to close.
- The Governor has initiated a ban on all large group gatherings exceeding 500 people. Facilities meant to hold fewer than 500 people will only be allowed to fill that space by half. This cap does not apply to daily school attendance. However, this directive will impact District extra-curricular events, which will be reviewed for cancellation or postponement on a case-by-case basis. As such, any adjustments to scheduling will also be communicated on a case-by-case basis.

Since my last update, we continue to work collaboratively at the county, BOCES, local, and district level on plans that address safety, communication, continuity of learning and the delivery of essential services to those students that need them. Please be aware the District;

- is assessing and game planning the ability to deliver some level of "distance learning" or "online options,"
- is developing plans for implementing this option while considering individual student needs, internet accessibility and the means of providing physical course work, and
- is working with our food service department and local agencies on plans for providing meals to students in the event of a closure.

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Concerning travel and trips;

- The District is assessing ALL school-based trips and activities and following state and local advisories regarding cancelation if necessary.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has a website dedicated to providing up-to-date resources for travelers: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>.
- The District advises travelers to affected areas follow self-quarantine guidelines. Suggested guidelines can be found online at: <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/documents/self-quarantine-covid.pdf>.

As we are still in the midst of our regular cold and flu season, it is important that we continue to follow recommendations to minimize the spread of all respiratory viruses, including Covid-19. Please make sure you share the following reminders from the NYS Department of Health with your children and family members:

- Stay home when you are sick.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Do not rush to the doctor, urgent care or hospital without calling first to obtain guidance from a medical professional.

New Yorkers can call the NYS Department of Health coronavirus hotline at 1-888-364-3065 with any concerns or questions. In addition you can visit their dedicated website at;

www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html

The safety and well-being of our students and staff is the greatest responsibility of the District. We will continue to monitor the situation and will take every precaution to maintain a healthy school environment.

Sincerely,



Mr. Michael Eiffe
Superintendent