



CHITTENANGO CENTRAL SCHOOLS
Michael R. Eiffe, Superintendent
1732 Fyler Road, Chittenango, NY 13037
Telephone: 315-687-2840—Fax: 315-687-2841

March 14, 2020

RE: COVID-19 UPDATE

Dear Chittenango CSD Families:

As promised, concerning the ever-evolving circumstances of COVID-19 (coronavirus), we wish to update you on developing information and the District's current status. Following a briefing with county authorities on the morning of Friday, March 13, a communication was sent to you indicating that there are currently no confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the Chittenango CSD or Madison County. While there is currently no confirmed case, the concern rests in that limited testing availability likely precludes cases that may be unknown. In conferences and meetings with Madison County officials Friday evening and throughout the weekend, we continue to make preparations for the eventuality of known cases. Additionally, under the guidance and directive of Madison County Officials (including the Department of Health), we examined the District's role in social distancing practices and the mitigation of community spread in light of those cases that may be unknown.

In accordance with the Governor's guidance, the District must make school closure decisions regarding COVID-19 in concert and collaboration with local Department of Health and governmental officials.

To this end, please be aware of the following:

Madison County authorities have advised that the closure of schools would be an effective strategy in promoting social distancing practices and support the mitigation of community spread. The District will follow the guidance of Madison County authorities and enact an emergency closure beginning Tuesday, March 17, 2020. This emergency closure is indefinite at this time, until we receive further guidance from Madison County authorities regarding the imminent health risk.

Please note, the District will be open for regular student attendance on Monday, March 16, for the purpose of providing children necessary instructional materials for a potential extended period of time. More information to follow.

During the period of this emergency closure, all on-campus activities, events and instruction for students will be suspended until further notice.

Jason P. Clark, Assistant
Superintendent for Instruction
315-687-2854-Fax: 315-687-2851

Scott Mahardy, Assistant
Superintendent for Business
315-687-2846-Fax: 315-687-2845

Mary Farber, Director
of Special Education/PPS
315-687-2844-Fax: 315-687-2851

Chittenango High School
Nicholas Fersch, Principal
Matthew Morkel, Asst. Principal
315-687-2900-Fax: 315-687-2924
David Gryczka, Director of Physical
Education, Health and Athletics/Dean
of Students
315-687-2905-Fax: 315-687-2924

Chittenango Middle School
Arnold Merola, Principal Grs. 5-8
Meghan Samsel, Administrative Intern/
Assistant Principal Grs. 5-8
315-687-2800-Fax: 315-687-2801

Bolivar Road Elementary
Lee Carulli, Principal
315-687-2880-Fax: 315-687-2881

Bridgeport Elementary
Melissa Stanek, Principal
315-687-2280-Fax: 315-687-2281

Food Services
Wendy Swift, Director
315-687-2866-Fax: 315-687-2861

Transportation
Connie Thorp, Supervisor
315-687-2870-Fax: 315-687-5823

Maintenance
Jeffrey Martin, Director of Facilities
315-687-2863-Fax: 315-687-2861

As communicated in the 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 continuing to game plan the delivery of “distance learning” or “online options.” Plans for implementing remote learning are being developed considering individual student needs, internet accessibility and delivery/pick-up of physical course work.

is working with our food service department and local agencies on plans for providing meals to students.

We are in the midst of a World Health Organization global pandemic. 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; <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home>. Of course, more information will come in the following days.

In this time of unprecedented challenge, we have an opportunity to demonstrate unprecedented unity. The Chittenango CSD community is built upon unity, supporting your neighbor and a commitment to the WE of Bear Country. Let not this challenge be an hour of tragedy, but rather an hour of triumph. We will stand together, we will support one another, WE ARE BEAR COUNTRY...WE ARE CHITTENANGO.

As you know, the safety and well-being of our students and staff is the greatest responsibility of the District. Thus, we will continue to communicate in real time with our school community via school website, Peachjar and SchoolMessenger.

Sincerely,

Mr. Michael Eiffe
Superintendent