

CLARENCE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

ADMINISTRATION

Geoffrey M. Hicks, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools

MaryEllen Colling

Director of Special Education

Robert Michel

Director of Personnel

Richard J. Mancuso

Business Official

Kristin Overholt

Asst. Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction



BOARD OF EDUCATION

Michael Fuchs

President

Matthew Stock

Vice President

Tricia Andrews

James Boglioli

Dennis Priore

Dawn Snyder

Mary Beth Sweeney

March 10, 2020

Dear Parent:

Please allow this letter to serve as communication on the most recent information regarding coronavirus (COVID-19). The District will continue to post letters to our website as part of our overall communication strategy.

The Clarence School District is suspending all school sponsored travel programs for students and staff in all other countries, regardless of whether they are currently impacted by travel alerts. If students or staff return from currently impacted countries or regions of impacted countries, they will be required to be under precautionary quarantine for 14 days upon return. Trips within the United States and field trips to local venues will still be held, however they are subject to cancellation should circumstances change.

The Department of Health (DOH) believes that sustained community containment strategies are effective in reducing the spread of the virus. The DOH has identified non-pharmaceutical interventions that form the backbone of the containment strategies. First, students or staff should stay home when sick. If students or staff show symptoms of coronavirus, communication should be made with the Erie County DOH. Second, students or staff who develop respiratory illness symptoms during the school day will be isolated promptly in a room separate from others. Parents will be contacted to take the student home and the student may be required to wear a mask while awaiting transportation home. Third, because COVID-19 spreads from person to person in droplets produced by coughs and sneezes, practicing proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette is essential. Our faculty will emphasize good handwashing and coughing/sneezing practices with students. Fourth, the District has been and will continue to perform routine environmental cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch surfaces such as doorknobs, light switches, and countertops.

The local health department will notify the District if and when a particular school building must close due to COVID-19 and when a school can reopen. The District will work in close collaboration and coordination with the state and local health officials to close school and/or cancel large events if necessary. **When a student or staff member attended school prior to being confirmed as a COVID-19 case, New York State DOH requires an initial 24-hour closure, in order to begin an investigation to determine the contacts that the individual may have had within the school environment.** That investigation will inform the plan determined by the Erie County DOH as to any further required closure, or other necessary precautions to take for specific classrooms, or for specific individuals. During that initial 24-hour closure the District will immediately take steps to clean and disinfect the school building(s) where the student or staff had contact prior to testing positive for COVID-19. That disinfection must be in accordance with NYS DOH guidelines and must be complete before accepting returning students.

If a student or staff member has been identified as testing positive for COVID-19, the District will notify state health officials to determine what additional steps are needed for the school community. **In addition, students and staff who are well but are taking care of, or share a home with, someone with a case of COVID-19 must not attend school and must follow precautionary quarantine instructions from State health officials, who will determine when it is safe for them to return to school.**

The Department of Health has informed us that people who have returned from an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19 more than 14 days ago and do not have symptoms are not infected with the virus and contact with them will not give you the virus.

The District has developed instructional and operational continuity plans should schools be closed for an elongated period of time. If the need arises to implement those plans, additional information will be provided.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey M. Hicks, Ed.D.

Superintendent