

March 6, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Because the health and safety of our students and staff have always been our highest priority, I am writing this letter to give you an update on the actions we are taking at Onondaga-Cortland-Madison BOCES to address growing concerns surrounding the coronavirus, also known as COVID 19.

Like school districts across the state, OCM BOCES will continue to follow recommendations provided by the Center for Disease Control, the World Health Organization and the New York State Department of Health. All three organizations are monitoring the situation closely and will provide us with updates as the situation warrants.

On Tuesday, I met with officials from the New York State Department of Health and the New York State Education Department to get the most up-to-date information on this growing health challenge. I have also been meeting with OCM BOCES administrators and school district leaders to ensure safety plans and other contingency measures are in place to accommodate students and staff as the situation evolves.

As you may know, OCM BOCES utilizes extensive cleaning measures to combat the spread of cold and flu-like viruses in our buildings. We have been increasing these measures as a result of COVID 19 and purchasing cleaning supplies that have been identified by the Center for Disease Control to effectively fight the coronavirus in order to mitigate the spread of respiratory viruses.

Still, it is important to remember these tips from the New York State Department of Health to help prevent the spread of these illnesses:

- 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.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing. If you use a tissue, throw it in the trash.
- Routinely clean and disinfect objects and surfaces that are frequently touched.

As the situation evolves, we are committed to providing you with timely updates regarding COVID 19. These updates will be shared with you through emails and a web page that will be shared soon.

Thank you for your continued support as we continue to monitor the impact of the coronavirus and do our best to keep us all safe and healthy amid this global challenge.

Sincerely,



Colleen Viggiano  
Deputy Superintendent, OCM BOCES