

March 14, 2020

Good Evening OCM BOCES Staff,

I would like to give you an update on the letter I sent to you yesterday as the situation continues to evolve quickly around planning for the impact of COVID-19. As a BOCES organization, we are unique because we serve such a large number of school districts that span several counties. In each county, BOCES is required to follow the direction of the County Executive and the County Health Department in regard to school closings. While there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Onondaga, Cortland or Madison counties, leaders are working quickly to take proactive measures to protect the health and safety of our communities.

This afternoon I, along with the Onondaga County School Superintendents, met with Onondaga County Executive Ryan McMahon and Onondaga County Health Commissioner Dr. Indu Gupta to discuss COVID-19 and its potential impact on schools.

As of 5:00 this evening, Onondaga County Executive Ryan McMahon had announced a State of Emergency in Onondaga County.

As per the order of the County Executive, students in Onondaga County will be out of school beginning Monday, March 23, 2020. Students are scheduled to return on Tuesday, April 14. Mr. McMahon also made it clear that these closings could occur earlier if the situation changes.

Therefore, students who attend our programs at our Crown Road Campus and Thompson Road Campus will not be in attendance from March 23-April 13. This includes students who are enrolled in New Vision and CTE programs that are off-site in Onondaga County as well as students who attend programming at the Zogg building. Additionally, all of our Special Education classrooms that are located in school districts in Onondaga County will not be in session. During this upcoming week, our administrators will be working with instructional staff to prepare for the continuity of learning while these students are at home, as this is an expectation of the Commissioner of the State Education Department.

In the meantime, we are continuing to work with our Cortland and Madison County superintendents and county officials. We will inform you of any decisions related to school closings in those counties when we have new information. As of now, our Cortlandville Campus and classrooms based in districts in Cortland County are open.

All 12-month staff at OCM BOCES will continue to report to work while students are home. As a reminder, we are taking extra precautions in all of our facilities to prevent the spread of this virus, including the use of Clorox Total 360 machines and increased surface cleaning by our custodians. It is important to continue to follow all of the hygiene recommendations mentioned in the previous letters. I appreciate your dedication and commitment to supporting students in our region and in our school districts during this challenging time.

Thank you,



Colleen Viggiano  
Deputy Superintendent, OCM BOCES