



SIDNEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Eben M. Bullock, Superintendent of Schools

March 13, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am sure that everyone has questions and concerns regarding COVID-19 (coronavirus) and the impact it may or may not have on school. We assure you that the District is continually monitoring the situation and instituting protocols to manage a variety of needs. At this time, we are doing our best to prepare and plan accordingly to meet the needs of our school community.

The most recent guidance from the State dictates that the Department of Health will alert the school of any cases of COVID-19 in our counties. Upon the first diagnosed case from a staff member or student, we will be required to close school for 24 hours. Additional closing will be at the discretion of the Department of Health. As you know, the Sidney Central School District uses School Messenger and social media to communicate on a mass scale for any school emergencies, school-related cancellations, and most recently how the District is responding to the coronavirus. We will continue to disseminate information through these venues.

Although we are hopeful that we will be able to maintain learning as usual, we are also putting supports in place in the event we need to close school for an extended period of time. All teachers are preparing two weeks of materials to go home with students should we need to close. In the case of an extended closure, students will be sent home with packets, their devices (depending on grade level), and directions on accessing learning at home.

Students or staff with symptoms and/or a fever will be asked to leave school until symptoms have been cleared for 24 hours. If you have been in contact with a person positively identified with COVID-19, you should self-quarantine and contact the County Department of Health. Please do not come to school if you are ill.

Included is a pamphlet from the Chenango County Health Department on *Keeping Your Family Safe by Planning*.

In order to make sure we have as many resources as possible in place for families in the event of an extended closure, **please complete the attached form and return it to school with your child Monday, March 16th**. Thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Eben M. Bullock

After the Outbreak

Review how effective your plan worked

- ♦ Did your plans for home, school, and work, have you prepared?
 - ◊ Talk about any problems or issues you had and possible ways to improve your plan.
 - ◊ Were there any additional resources that you could have used?
- ♦ Join in on community discussions. Let others know what worked for you and your family and learn from others what may work better next time.
- ♦ Continue to practice everyday healthy habits and preventative actions. Stay home when you are sick, use good sneezing and coughing protocol, good hand washing, and frequently cleaning surfaces and objects.
- ♦ Take care of the emotional health of your family. Share how you are feeling with others. Connect with family and friends. Help children cope after an outbreak by encouraging them to share their concerns and ask questions.

For more information visit

the ***New York State Department of Health*** at:

www.health.ny.gov

and click on

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

or call **Toll free # 1-888-364-3065**



Chenango County Department of Health
(607) 337-1660

<https://www.co.chenango.ny.us/public-health/>

Coronavirus Disease—2019 (COVID-19)

Keeping Your Family Safe by Planning

A COVID-19 outbreak in our community could last for a long time. Take time now to plan for your family's needs.



STAY INFORMED

Coronavirus Disease—2019 (COVID-19) Keeping your family safe by planning

Before an Outbreak Occurs

Create a Household or a Family Plan of Action:

- ♦ Decide who will be included in your plans and what each person's needs would be. Keep in mind those family members who have health conditions; their health condition may worsen and the services that they routinely rely on might not be available if they become ill.

Those at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness include: older adults (ages 60 and over) and people who have serious chronic medical conditions like heart disease, diabetes, and lung disease.

- ♦ Identify community resources that might be needed for services or support. Consider organizations that provide mental health or counseling services, food, and other supplies.
- ♦ Create an Emergency Contact List: a list of family, friends, neighbors, healthcare providers, school, employers, health department, and other community resources

Choose a room in your home that can be used to separate a sick family member from those who are healthy. If possible there should be a separate bathroom for the person to use. Plan how these rooms will be cleaned as needed.

Practice good personal health habits:

- ♦ Avoid contact with people who are sick
- ♦ Stay at home while you are sick
- ♦ Cover your cough and sneezes with a tissue
- ♦ Clean and disinfect surfaces that are often touched (tables, doorknobs, countertops, and light switches) with household detergent and water
- ♦ Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap is not available use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

Prepare for extended school closures and possible changes at your workplace. Talk to your employer about options for workers who are sick or who have to stay home to care for sick family.

During an Outbreak

Protect Yourself and Put your Household Plan into Action:

- ♦ Stay home when you are sick with COVID-19 symptoms (fever, cough, difficulty breathing)
- ♦ Keep away from other people who are sick, limiting contact with others as much as possible (about 6 feet)
- ♦ Stay informed about the local COVID-19 situation from Chenango County Public Health or the New York State Department of Health.
- ♦ Continue practicing everyday preventive actions: Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap is not available use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover your cough and sneezes with a tissue. Clean frequently touched surfaces and objects daily with regular detergent and water.
- ♦ Use the separate room and bathroom you prepared for sick household members (if possible)
- ♦ Notify your workplace if your schedule changes

If You or a Family Member are Sick With COVID-19:

- ♦ Stay home except to get medical care; be sure to call ahead before visiting the doctor
- ♦ Separate yourself from other people and animals in your home
- ♦ Wear a facemask if you are sick and being transported to a medical facility; wear a facemask if you are caring for a person who is ill with COVID-19
- ♦ Cover your coughs and sneezes
- ♦ Clean your hands often
- ♦ Avoid sharing personal household items, clean all 'high-touch' surfaces daily
- ♦ Monitor your symptoms
- ♦ Call 911 if you have a medical emergency: If you have a medical emergency and need to call 911, notify the dispatch personnel that you have, or are being evaluated for COVID-19. If possible, put on a face-mask before emergency medical services arrive.
- ♦ Stay at home until instructed to leave

In the event the Sidney Central School District is required to close, as directed by the Department of Health, we would like the following information to include updated contact information. If there has been no change in contact information please write "No Change" in the physical address line. You may list additional children at the same address on the back.

Student Name: _____

Grade: _____

Homeroom (K-6) or 1st period teacher (7-12): _____

Physical Address: _____

Parent/Guardian Phone Number: _____

Parent/Guardian Email: _____

Will your family have enough to eat? Yes No Unsure

If no, will you have transportation to a central location to pick up meals daily?

Yes No Unsure

Would you need to have weekly food delivered to your home?

Yes No Unsure

Do you have access to the internet at home?

Yes No

Do you have a personal device to access the internet at home?

Yes No

List any specific concerns that you need the school's help with:

Student Name: _____

Grade: _____

Homeroom (K-6) or 1st period teacher (7-12): _____

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