

ONTEORA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOICEVILLE, NEW YORK 12412

Victoria McLaren
Superintendent of Schools

(845) 657-6383
Fax (845) 657-8742

February 28, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As you may recall, we sent a letter home recently regarding the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV). We also posted the letter on the Health Services webpage, which can be found here:

<https://www.onteorak12.ny.us/departments/health-services>

Please feel free to check back to this page periodically, as we will post any updated information or guidance to this location. If there is a local outbreak of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus, we will work closely with the Ulster County Health Department to address the situation within our District, as is described in our District Wide Safety Plan. In the case of a mass illness or epidemic, we are governed by the Ulster County Health Department.

Our Medical Director, Suellen Elmendorf FNP, maintains direct communication with the Ulster County Health Department for all significant illnesses, and any health issues of concern for our District. If any cases of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus are diagnosed within our population, the Health Department will notify us and provide us with specific direction, which we will follow. The Ulster County Health Department also has information posted to their website which can be accessed here:

<https://ulstercountyny.gov/health/health-mental-health/news-and-current-issues>

The coronavirus is transmitted through sneezes, coughs and contaminated surfaces. The guidance that has been issued indicates that parents should consult with their pediatrician if they feel that their child is ill, and as always, if they are ill, children should be kept home from school. The recommended prevention at this time is the standard everyday prevention of respiratory viruses. As stated in the previous letter the preventative actions include:

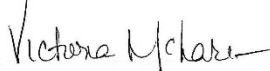
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. (Please note, students are not to use alcohol based sanitizers without a doctor's permission). Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.
- 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 cough/sneeze with a tissue & throw the tissue in the trash
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

**CDC does NOT currently recommend the use of face masks or N95 respirators among the general public

Please check our Health Services webpage for any updated guidance, and always know that our Medical Director and our School Nurses are always willing to speak to parents if there are concerns.

Sincerely,

Victoria McLaren



Superintendent of Schools