

ONTEORA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOICEVILLE, NEW YORK 12412

Victoria McLaren
Superintendent of Schools

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

March 11, 2020

Dear Onteora Families:

We are continuing to monitor the situation regarding the coronavirus (COVID-19). Although we continue to have no suspected or confirmed cases in our Onteora schools, I wanted to send an update on what is happening in our region.

The Wallkill Central School District is closing for two days, beginning tomorrow, due to an employee of a district contractor, as well as a district student, having been in close contact with an individual who was diagnosed with COVID-19. The closure at Wallkill was implemented with guidance from the Ulster County Department of Health. The current plan is that they will reopen on Monday, March 16th, after disinfecting the buildings. Our local health officials will also utilize these two days to further investigate the case.

We have also become aware that the Windham-Ashland-Jewett School District has closed for one day, although there is no confirmed case of COVID-19 in the district at this time.

We continue to operate with the health and safety of our students, families, and school community as our highest priority. Out of an abundance of caution, our staff has been preparing for the possibility of a school closure. We will provide more information about our plans to support our students later this week. Any decision to close schools would be made at the recommendation of the Health Department.

Please continue to stress the importance of proper hygiene with your children. One of the most important things we can all do to limit the spread of COVID-19 is to wash hands with soap for at least 20 seconds:

- Before eating;
- After sneezing, coughing, or nose blowing;
- After using the restroom;
- Before handling food;
- After touching or cleaning surfaces that may be contaminated; and
- After using shared equipment like computers or phones

It is also important to stress proper respiratory hygiene by covering coughs and sneezes with tissues or the corner of the elbow, and disposing of soiled tissues immediately after use.

It is recommended that in the event that schools are closed, students and staff should limit time spent among groups of other people, such as gathering at a friend's house, shopping center, or favorite restaurant. The Centers for Disease Control advises that this can help minimize the spread of illness.

Please refer to the resources listed on our Health Services webpage for additional information and updates. It can be found here:

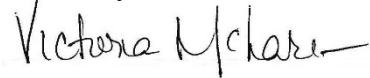
<https://www.onteora.k12.ny.us/departments/health-services>

There are also resources on the Ulster County Department of Health website here:

<https://ulstercountyny.gov/coronavirus>

I will also continue to keep you informed as the situation develops. If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to the Ulster County Department of Health at 845-340-3150 or the NYS Coronavirus Information Hotline at 1-888-364-3065.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Victoria McLaren". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line at the end.

Victoria McLaren
Superintendent of Schools