



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
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Good Afternoon:

As you are aware, the Coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to be a significant challenge in certain regions of the world and has impacted organizations throughout our region.

The Leadership of the Catasauqua Area School District is actively monitoring the PA Department of Health and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) for regular updates and making procedural adjustments, as recommended by those agencies. The District has a response plan that contains guidelines regarding increased cleaning and disinfection as well as monitoring attendance, illness, and travel for staff and students, and more.

Additionally, we will continue to follow all CDC and public health guidelines for students who are traveling, including recommendations for self-quarantine which includes asking families to self-report to the Department of Health 1-877-PA-HEALTH if you are returning from a Level 3 country OR if you have been exposed to someone who has COVID-19. We are asking that if you have recently traveled and/or will be traveling to another country, you check the [CDC's guidance for travel restrictions](#) and self-quarantine measures.

The Catasauqua Area School District has enacted numerous actions to combat the spread of germs, in general. Throughout each day and evening, our staff is extra vigilant about disinfecting desks, doorknobs, school bus seats, phones, high traffic areas, and all public areas. Appropriate supplies have been ordered and are on hand.

These precautionary measures, however, do not guarantee that we would be able to remain open unconditionally. Due to our reliance on skilled instructional and support staff, high employee absentee rates could cause the closure of our facilities. We will rely on PA Department of Health and CDC direction in the case of widespread illness, which could mandate our closure due to issues in nearby regions.

In the case of widespread and/or long-term closure, the Catasauqua Area School District subscribes to numerous on-line and print resources that are available for all students in order to maintain learning and provide some level of continuity. While this will not replace school days, it can serve as extended learning opportunities. In the case of a long-term closure, we will publish and communicate resources with all students and parents/guardians. Please regularly visit the Catasauqua Area School District [Coronavirus Page](#) for updated information.

Finally, we encourage you to review and continue to adhere to the [CDC guidance and resources for households](#). As it states, the best advice for prevention of any respiratory virus continues to be simple, common sense preventative actions for students and staff that apply to everyone:

- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Cover coughs or sneezes with your elbow or a tissue that is immediately placed in the trash.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces frequently, including countertops, light switches, cell phones, remotes, and other frequently touched items.
- If your child is sick and running a fever, defined as a temperature greater than or equal to 100 degree Fahrenheit, please keep them out of school until they are fever free for 24 hours without using fever reducing medications.

This type of event can be traumatic and confusing for young children. This [Video](#) is a good resource to share information with your child in a non-threatening manner.

As always, if you have any concerns regarding your child's health, it is recommended that you consult with your child's primary care physician. We will continue to update you as new recommendations from the PA Department of Health and the CDC become available.

Sincerely,



Robert J. Spengler
Superintendent