

March 13, 2020

Dear Southwestern Families:

I wanted to provide an update to Southwestern families regarding the Coronavirus. There are still no identified cases in Chautauqua County or within Western New York. We continue to monitor as well as actively participate in regular updates from the NY State Education Department (NYSED), the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and the Department of Health (DOH).

We have a strong commitment to keeping every child and employee at Southwestern healthy and safe. **What can you count on us to have done to prepare?**

1. We have reviewed our **cleaning protocols** within our buildings and cafeterias again, as we did during the recent influenza outbreak.
2. We are using **strict cleaning protocols** throughout the district, including our school buses. We continue to monitor and adjust based on recommendations.
3. We have received approval from our Medical Director to transition from the currently approved hand sanitizer to a **new hand sanitizer that's above 60% alcohol based**. Please notify the building principal if you wish to opt your child out.
4. We are closely **monitoring all student travel** out of the district.
5. We are **evaluating the number of devices that we have available** for our families in the event that this virus impacts us to the point that we are unable to have all students in school. We are considering **modes of delivery of instruction** under these circumstances also.
6. We are asking all students, staff, and visitors to **stay home if they are sick**.
7. We ask for your patience as our staff is **addressing each and every question and concern** to the best of their abilities.

Please remember that the guidance from the DOH repeatedly states that we should stay home when sick. Please seek medical attention if your symptoms are those of the Coronavirus.

All the best to you and your family – stay safe and healthy.

Very truly yours,



Maureen Donahue
Superintendent

MD/ps