

**Oneonta City School District**

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**Tom Brindley**  
*Superintendent*

March 11, 2020

**[Oneonta City School District update and resources on Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)**

Dear Parents/Guardians, Staff, and Community

As a follow up to the February 28<sup>th</sup> letter regarding COVID-19, I wanted to share that we are continuing to work very closely with the Otsego County Department of Health who has granted us 24-hour access to them as a resource.

Please know that there are NO positive COVID-19 cases in Otsego County currently. Exercising an abundance of caution, we will continue to follow our Pandemic Protocol. Our custodial team will continue to employ the cleaning and disinfecting regimen established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention specific to periods of time when influenza or an illness such as COVID-19 pose a risk to our school community. We simply ask that if you have occasion to visit one of our schools and are experiencing any of the following symptoms: fever, cough, or the onset of difficult breathing, that you please reconsider seeking entry into the building and simply call that school and we will do our best to accommodate whatever it is you might be needing.

We will also continue to communicate and educate our faculty, staff, and students on the following precautions:

- Stay home when feeling ill. Do not return to work or school until you have been fever-free (without the use of fever reducer medication) for at least 24 hours.
- Wash hands frequently with soap and water for a minimum of 20 seconds.
  - After using the restroom
  - Before and after meals
  - After recess or physical education
  - Before and after using electronic devices used by multiple students.
  - After coughing or sneezing

**Prescribed Method to Wash One's Hands:**

1. Wet hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), turn water off, apply soap.
  2. Lather hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your fingernails.
  3. Scrub/rub your hands together for a full 20 seconds. (Happy Birthday song twice)
  4. Rinse hands with clean, running water.
  5. Dry using clean towel/paper towel, or air dry.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
  - Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, or cough into your elbow and not your hands in order to protect others.
  - Call/See your healthcare provider when not feeling well.
  - Clean/disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces, including cell phones.

It is important to note that any time-sensitive or critically important information will be shared via the district's School Messenger auto-notification system, which can send emails, text messages and phone calls.

Closures:

As you may have read or heard on the news, Governor Cuomo has established that if it is determined that one of our students or staff members test positive for COVID-19, we will close school for at least 24 hours for cleaning purposes but also so the Department of Health has an opportunity to assess the likelihood of transmission. All closure recommendations or mandates will come from the New York State Department of Health.

At this moment, and after continued collaboration with the Otsego County Department of Health, we have **no plans** to cancel any events. Should this change, we will reach you via the School Messenger system and through postings on our District website: <https://www.oneontacsd.org>.

For additional information or resources relative to COVID-19, please see below.

- Information Resources:
  - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
    - What you Need to Know About COVID – 19 CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/2019-ncov-factsheet.pdf>
    - What to do if you are sick with coronavirus 2019 CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/sick-with-2019-nCoV-fact-sheet.pdf>
    - Stop the Spread of Germs CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/stop-the-spread-of-germs.pdf>
    - Frequently Asked Questions CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/children-faq.html>
    - Where around the World is community-spread coronavirus taking place CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>
  - New York State Department of Health
    - NYS Health Department – Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) <https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus/>
    - Novel Coronavirus Hotline : 1-888-364-3065, staffed by members from the NYS Department of Health 7 days a week from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
  - Otsego County Department of Health
    - Telephone: 607 – 547-4230
    - Website: [https://www.otsegocounty.com/departments/d-m/health\\_department/covid19.php](https://www.otsegocounty.com/departments/d-m/health_department/covid19.php)

We are appreciative of every effort that you are making in order to protect our school community from illness.

Sincerely,

Thomas F. Brindley