



Shawn Van Scoy, ED. D
Superintendent, GCSD

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William Buchko
President, BOE

PRACTICE SELF-CONTROL RESPECT OUTSTANDING UNITY DRIVEN

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we return from the weekend I am sure you have heard several messages about Covid-19. Every time I turn on the TV or check the notifications on my phone I read about the continued spread. While I do not have the expertise to predict how big this crisis will, or will not, become, I can share that we have a plan in place for a community health crisis and are modifying the plan as we receive updates. The last time we implemented this plan was 2009 for H1N1.

Two weeks ago our nurses, administrators and facilities department took steps to implement our planned response to [Covid -19](#), also called [Coronavirus](#). That plan includes several layers and steps, at this time we are implementing the most basic steps of the plan, and preparing for the possibility of implementing others.

Regardless of the progression of Covid-19 there are some basic steps that we are taking that will help during flu and cold season. Currently:

1. All schools will be conducting demonstrations with all grade levels on the proper way to wash hands. Additionally, posters with the proper handwashing techniques will be posted in hallways, above sinks, in bathrooms, etc. as reminders.
2. Students will continue to receive guidance on coughing and sneezing into their sleeves.
3. High frequency surfaces such as desks and door knobs are disinfected daily.
4. Students that are sick are to be sent home.
5. Additional hand sanitizer units are being installed throughout the buildings.

In reaction to an escalation of Covid-19 we are prepared to implement additional steps, but due to limited availability of supplies we are delaying their start until we receive further guidance.

These additional steps include:

1. Disconnection of water fountains, moving to only bottle refill stations.
2. Installation of additional hand sanitizing stations through the district.
3. Required hand sanitizing before and after lunch.
4. Use of electrostatic disinfectant sprayers to disinfect busses and classrooms as needed.

The District has also received guidance that we should **prepare** for [social distancing practices](#) including the cancellation of district events, cancellation of large gatherings, cancellation of trips, and even the cancellation of student attendance at school. Again the current guidance is to prepare, not implement. Certainly we hope none of these additional steps are necessary but

we should all consider that concerts, sporting events, trips and student attendance at school might be cancelled.

We continue to monitor the situation and will provide updates as we adjust to new information. In the meantime, here are some steps you can take at home to [stop the spread of germs](#) and continue to keep everyone in top health:

1. Practice proper hand washing at home; washing your hands with soap and clean running water for at least 20 seconds.
2. Practice covering your mouth when coughing and sneezing into the crook of your elbow to prevent the spread of germs.
3. Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth.
4. Keep your child(ren) home if they are not feeling well. They should be fever free for at least 24 hours **without medication** before returning to school.
5. Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces, especially if someone is sick.
6. Do not share personal household items such as utensils, glasses, towels, etc.

By working together we can help keep our schools and community healthy.

Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Shawn Van Scoy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and "V".

Shawn Van Scoy, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Gananda Central School District