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Covid-19 (Coronavirus) continues to dominate the news and we hear additional and sometimes conflicting messages on a regular basis. I want to let you know how the district is reacting to the disease and our plans.

The Penn Yan School District continues to monitor the recommendations and advice from a variety of sources including the Yates County Public Health, the State Education Department and our School Physician, as well as other agencies that are offering regular updates around the Coronavirus. The interagency communication and collaboration is reassuring. We have strict procedures in place for preventing and responding to any outbreak of infectious disease and will be revising those as new information about this virus comes to light.

We encourage you to have discussions with your children around illness prevention, including:

1. Washing hands with soap and water regularly for at least 20 seconds
2. Keeping a distance from anyone who appears sick
3. Staying home if you feel sick
4. Using your elbow or a tissue to cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze
5. Ensuring proper nutrition and rest

Students who have had a fever, that is a temperature of 100\* or higher, are not allowed at school until they have been fever-free (without the use of medication) for at least 24 hours.

Currently, the district is taking the following preventative steps to control the spread of viral illnesses (including influenza and COVID-19):

1. Providing alcohol-based hand sanitizers in key locations and sanitizer wipes to all classrooms
2. Regularly cleaning and disinfecting high traffic areas
3. Ensuring our school nurses have the most up-to-date information from federal and local agencies
4. Sending home students whom our nurses believe to be unwell and/or recommending further testing as necessary
5. Working collaboratively with our school physicians and our students' family physicians as needed
6. Encouraging all staff and students to get a flu shot

Information about this new virus is unfolding rapidly. The CDC and NYS Department of Health will update its guidance as new details become available. For more information, please visit:

- **NYS Department of Health** <https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus/>
- **Center for Disease Control (Frequently Asked Questions)** <https://www.cdc.gov/nCoV>