

Massena Central School District

84 Nightengale Avenue
Massena, New York 13662



SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Patrick H. Brady

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District Clerk

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March 12, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Yesterday, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic. We understand that the uncertainty surrounding this ever-evolving situation causes anxiety among our school community, however, we want to assure our community that there is no need to panic. We are working diligently to prevent the spread of illness in our schools and we will continue to communicate with parents, staff, and the public and share updates as information becomes available.

The District is working closely with the St. Lawrence County Department of Health (SLC DOH) and following all guidance by the New York State Department of Education (NYSED) and NYS Department of Health (NYS DOH), as well as recommendations by the Center of Disease Control (CDC).

Maintenance staff are taking extra precautions to prevent illness from spreading by cleaning and disinfecting classrooms and surfaces according to clear and specific guidance released last week by the NYS Department of Health NYSED.

We have a Districtwide Safety Plan in place, which includes provisions for infectious disease. We are currently taking steps to update this plan to address specific responses to a potential Coronavirus outbreak.

At this point, decisions to cancel certain travel plans, large group gatherings and events are being made on a case-by-case basis. We will notify our staff and community of any cancellation of upcoming events as soon as the decision is made. We anticipate clear directives from the SLC DOH on these types of events moving forward.

The District will follow directives from the NYSED and NYSDOH on closures:

- If a case is detected in school, the school will immediately close for a 24 hour period for disinfecting and investigation into the contacts among staff and students.
- The decision to close will come from the DOH, and not the district.
- If an investigation determines that there was widespread contact within the school, the school will close for a 14 day period.

We are currently examining options for online learning should a closure occur. We are still in the information gathering stage and details have yet to be determined.

We will continue to update our school community via our website, BOE Updates, Facebook page, and other means of communication.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'P' followed by a long, horizontal, slightly wavy line that tapers to the right.

Patrick H. Brady
Superintendent of Schools