

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Dear Boquet Valley CSD Parents/Guardians/Families,

This message is the next in a series of communications regarding the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). Even though there may be little new information between these communications, I intend to continue to disseminate the information that I have. The intent of this is for review purposes or to inform those who may have missed any earlier communication, as well as update you **There have been no confirmed cases of Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in the Boquet Valley community.** We have been closely monitoring the situation in New York State and the United States.

**NEW INFORMATION:**

As widely forecasted, the COVID-19 virus continues to spread, and reportable infections continue to approach our area. As of the time this letter was written, we have not received any notification of COVID-19 infections in Essex County, NY.

As you are likely aware, on March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Governor Cuomo declared a State of Emergency for the State of New York. This declaration was made due to confirmed cases in Westchester, Nassau, Rockland, and Saratoga Counties, as well as in New York City. This declaration entails no specific immediate impact for school districts, but rather, will assist the State in expediting its emergency preparedness activities. Please see the following link for more information: <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/no-202-declaring-disasters-emergency-state-new-york>

**ACTIVITY CANCELLATION**

**At this time, no activities have been cancelled by Boquet Valley CSD.** Some events across the state have been cancelled by the organizers. We continue to check to see how we might be affected. Be aware that some activities (interscholastic events, foreign travel, field trips, concerts, etc.) may be cancelled with little advance notice.

**FAMILY COMMUNICATION**

Today, Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, a robocall was made and an email sent to test our district's system. If you did not get the robocall or the email, please contact Judy French at the Lake View Campus to be added to the list at 518-962-8244 or [jfrench@boquetvalleycsd.org](mailto:jfrench@boquetvalleycsd.org).

**POSSIBLE SCHOOL CANCELLATION**

Very little is known about the impact of a possible extended school closure. School districts in New York State are subject to a minimum 180-day calendar. Responsibility for waiving this requirement rests with the New York State Commissioner of Education. **There is no current necessity to close school.** If a closure becomes appropriate it is unclear if the 180-day requirement would be waived. Many questions and concerns have been raised. The answers are of great interest to everyone. As we get updates, we will share them. In an effort to be prepared, I have requested that instructional staff begin thinking about how they could offer instruction if we had to close for an extended period of time.

## CURRENT PROTOCOL

Our primary strategy remains to prevent the spread of this virus through aggressive cleaning and hygiene best practices. We have been encouraging the following:

- **Wash** your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- **Wash** your hands with soap and water before eating, after eating and after using the bathroom.
- **Avoid** touching your eyes, nose, and mouth especially with unwashed hands.
- **Avoid** close contact with people who are sick.
- **Cover** your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing. If you use a tissue, throw it in the trash immediately after use.
- **Routinely clean** and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- **Follow** the CDC recommendations pertaining to travel abroad.

We will continue to update you regularly and encourage you to contact our schools if you have questions. This situation remains fluid and changes/updates are a certainty.

Sincerely,



Joshua R. Meyer  
Superintendent of School