

Friday, March 13, 2020

Dear Boquet Valley CSD Families:

Last night I updated the Board of Education with the most recent information that I had about the coronavirus. Yesterday the Chief School Officers met with representatives from the Clinton and Essex County Departments of Health. **There are currently no cases of coronavirus in our community.** Perhaps the most comforting information was about the communication related to a positive test. We were told that if there is a positive test result for coronavirus in Clinton or Essex County, school superintendents would be among the first to know. Once I have this information, I would then relay it to our faculty, staff, and community.

If the infected individual was a student or employee, BVCS would be required to close for 24 hours while we clean and disinfect the campuses and assess the situation. The Department of Health was very clear that every situation is different, which is why the 24 hours will be needed to determine the best course of action. If the infected individual is a community member or associated with another school district, nothing would immediately change for us.

You likely are aware that several states have proactively cancelled K-12 school for up to two weeks, and that SUNY campuses (and other colleges and universities) have closed. As far as I know, none of these institutions have a strict 180-day policy that is directly tied to state aid. We have been given no answers as to what it would mean if we are required to close. The decision to close school districts in other states has come from action made at the state level, not the local district level.

In Governor Cuomo's address this morning, he stated the following:

*"To do mass closings of schools is not without consequence: schools also run food programs for many students. You close schools, now what do you do with those children who are home all day? You close schools, you now have parents who can't go to work."*

Several questions are, so far, unanswered, but critically important moving forward. I am hopeful that we will get some guidance over the next week. I encourage you to check our website for any coronavirus updates including any potential cancellations to activities, field trips, sporting events, etc. For further information, check the resources on the following page.

Sincerely,



Joshua R. Meyer  
Superintendent of School

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION SOURCES

New York State Department of Health's Coronavirus webpage:  
<https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus/>

Centers for Disease Control (CDC) webpage for Coronavirus:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

NYS Center for School Health  
<https://www.schoolhealthny.com/>

Essex County Department of Health  
<https://www.co.essex.ny.us/Health/>

World Health Organization  
<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

Talking to Kids About the Coronavirus  
[https://childmind.org/article/talking-to-kids-about-the-coronavirus/?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=more%20advice%20from%20our%20experts%20here&utm\\_campaign=Weekly-03-03-20](https://childmind.org/article/talking-to-kids-about-the-coronavirus/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=more%20advice%20from%20our%20experts%20here&utm_campaign=Weekly-03-03-20)