



SAUGERTIES CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dear Saugerties Parents/Guardians:

March 13, 2020

Although we do not have any suspected or confirmed cases in our schools, today, Ulster County Executive, Patrick Ryan has ordered our schools to close for 14 calendar days as a precautionary measure against the transmission of COVID-19. Executive Ryan stated, "I have directed a series of immediate actions to bolster our response to the continued spread of the COVID-19 virus in Ulster County." He added, "My top priority remains ensuring the health and safety of all of our residents, and these measures will provide additional safeguards for everyone. As the situation develops, we will continue to lean forward and take proactive steps informed by real-time data and the advice of our team of public health experts."

As of today, all school building activities, including athletics/sports, extracurricular activities, and community use of buildings are canceled through Friday, March 27.

We know that closing our schools will impact families, and we recognize that working families depend on the consistency and predictability of supports and services our schools offer. For the past several weeks, we have been working on response protocols to address various needs and concerns associated with a closing of this nature. Administration will be meeting on Monday to finalize and communicate these plans.

During the school closure, the CDC is urging parents to discourage their children from gathering socially at friends' houses, the mall, or restaurants. In addition to using a school closure as an opportunity to intensely disinfect the premises, the closure also provides time to slow down any possible spread by limiting contact with others.

This is a rapidly evolving situation, and we will continue to provide our families with updates as information becomes available. We have daily, sometimes hourly, communication with health officials at UCDOH and are following their directions carefully. Should they issue further guidance on extending the duration of the closure, parents will be notified immediately.

We ask that parents check our website for updates on a regular basis. I would like to thank our families for their support, patience, and adaptability during this challenging time.

Sincerely,

Kirk Reinhardt

Superintendent of Schools

Saugerties Central School District