



SAUGERTIES CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dear Parent/Guardian,

I am sure you have seen the media coverage on a new coronavirus called 2019 Novel (new). This virus was first found in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China and had not been found in humans before. There are thousands of diagnosed cases in China and other countries, but there has only been one case that originated in the United States.

Since this virus is very new, Federal and State health authorities are carefully studying this virus. Public health authorities currently believe that this new virus spreads in similar fashion to influenza, i.e. through coughing and sneezing. Currently, there are no New Yorkers that appear to have been infected with this virus. In counties around New York City, several people have been quarantined solely because they have traveled to areas where the virus is present. None of them are ill and this is only a precaution. 2019-nCoV is not actively circulating among New Yorkers at this time. Therefore, there is no need to cancel school or social events, and there is no need for students or school staff to wear surgical masks at school.

Symptom Information to date suggests that 2019-nCoV causes mild-to-moderate illness and symptoms like the flu, including fever, cough, and difficulty breathing. Many people have symptoms similar to the common cold. There are currently no vaccines or medications available to protect against this virus, but there are ways to minimize the spread of all respiratory viruses, including 2019-nCoV. The District would like to share ways that you can minimize your risk.

• 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. • Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands. • Avoid close contact with people who are sick. • Stay home when you 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. • Routinely clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces. • CDC recommends that travelers avoid all travel to China.

As of February 2, 2020, new screening protocols are conducted for individuals entering the US from China and other countries at designated airports. If you or a family member has recently traveled to Wuhan, Hubei Province, China and experience symptoms, such as feeling sick with fever, cough or trouble breathing; OR you develop symptoms within 14 days of traveling there, you should: • Seek medical care right away. Call ahead and tell them about your travel and symptoms. • Avoid contact with others. • Stay home, except for seeking medical care and contact your local health department. Continue to use the precautions listed above.

This is an emerging, rapidly changing situation. The Saugerties Central School District is taking a proactive stance to keep you informed, but keep in mind that there has not been any confirmed cases in the county or New York State. For questions, please contact your local department of health or the NYS DOH Novel Coronavirus hotline at 1-888-364-3065. We encourage you to keep up to date about 2019-nCoV, its treatment and prevention by visiting the following websites:

CDC's dedicated 2019-nCoV website at: <https://www.cdc.gov/nCoV>.

NYSDOH's dedicated 2019-nCoV website at: <https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus/> NYSDOH

Health department Directory at:

https://www.health.ny.gov/contact/contact_information/

New York State Center for School Health website at: www.schoolhealthny.com

Please be assured your school district is staying on top of the situation.

Thank you for your continued support,

Kirk Reinhardt

Superintendent of Schools