

Information about the Coronavirus...

February 27, 2020

The Waterford-Halfmoon Union Free School District would like to share information on the new coronavirus called 2019 Novel (new) Coronavirus (COVID-2019).

Although this is a rapidly evolving situation, based on recent reports, the Coronavirus is not actively circulating among New Yorkers at this time. Our district is monitoring the situation and following the guidance from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), NYS Department of Health (NSDOH), Saratoga County Department of Health and the NYS Education Department.

The district has infectious disease policy in place and is prepared to focus on cleaning and disinfecting to help minimize the spread of viruses and a variety of other illnesses. In fact, in dealing with past flu outbreaks the district has already made investments in the purchase of disinfectant supplies and equipment that we can use to combat any spread of an infectious disease.

Like with all viruses and illnesses, there's a tremendous reliance on individual precautions. The New York State Department of Health (DOH) recommends the following ways to minimize the spread of all respiratory viruses, including COVID-2019:

- 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.

Families or staff members who have traveled should be keenly aware of the need to monitor health conditions and provide that information to the district, if they needed to seek medical attention for related symptoms

There is a lot of misinformation out there. It is important that individuals seeking more information should only be using trusted sources such as the World Health Organization (WHO), CDC and NYSDOH. For more information:

- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/faqs.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/stigma-faq.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html#prevention>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/prevention-treatment.html>

This very serious health matter is being monitored closely and we will continue to share information as it becomes available. Like with all illnesses, there's a tremendous reliance on individual precautions. Your support and assistance is greatly appreciated.

Patrick Pomerville
Superintendent of Schools
Waterford-Halfmoon UFSD
Phone: 518-237-0800