



AKRON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

In Pursuit of Excellence

Patrick D. McCabe
Superintendent of Schools

March 4, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

This letter is intended to provide additional information on the District's response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and serve as an update to my February 13, 2020 letter that is currently posted on our website.

The District is working in a proactive manner to stay informed on this issue and collaborate with local and county health care providers to employ all recommended best practices. We have infectious disease controls in place and will continue planning and preparing for any contingency. In an effort to prevent the spread of germs, the District has employed additional cleaning measures throughout the campus and on school buses. Hand sanitizers are available in all buildings and additional dispensers are being put in place.

There are no school-sponsored trips scheduled to any currently impacted countries and we will not approve any such trips. At the moment, trips within the United States are allowed, however that may change pending recommendations from the Center of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH).

As best practice for overall health in cold and flu season, the CDC recommends that we engage in everyday, proactive measures to prevent the spread of germs and avoid illness, such as:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- 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 cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Please help us teach and reinforce these practices with our children.

If your child is exhibiting flu symptoms, such as a fever and a cough, we ask that you keep your child at home and visit your medical doctor.

I am meeting with Erie County Department of Health Commissioner Dr. Gale Burstein for an additional update on Friday, March 6th. The ECDOH is working closely with the NYSDOH, CDC and local healthcare providers and facilities to follow this virus and advise school districts. Currently, there are no confirmed cases in Erie County. According to the ECDOH, confirmed cases will be promptly reported to the public. Parents and community members can find up to date information on the CDC website at [link to cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)

We will continue to keep you updated, and we encourage you to stay informed. Please know that under law we cannot discuss confidential health information regarding any student or staff member.

I have included several links for your reference at the bottom of this letter that you might find helpful. As always, the health and safety of our community, including our students, faculty, and staff, remains our highest priority, and collectively we can work to ensure this goal.

Sincerely,

Patrick D. McCabe
Superintendent of Schools

Quick Links for your reference:

[CDC's 2019-nCoV website](#)

[NYS Department of Health's dedicated 2019-nCoV website](#)

[NYS Department of Health directory of local health departments](#)

[New York State Center for School Health website](#)

NYS Department of Health Novel Coronavirus Hotline: 1-888-364-3065