



AVOCA

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Central School District



Stephen Saxton, Superintendent
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March 4, 2020

Dear Avoca Central School District Parents/Guardians and Staff:

We understand that staff, parents, and students may have questions and concerns about the coronavirus, now called COVID-19. As of the writing of this letter, there have been confirmed cases of COVID-19 in New York State. As we track the coronavirus impact, we are writing to share important updates that we have received from the Center for Disease Control and other agencies that we feel will be helpful to our families. Attached is an updated fact sheet about COVID-19 from the Steuben County Health Department.

We wish to reiterate the importance of good hygiene habits to help prevent the spread of contagious health conditions. Health officials agree that one of the best ways to prevent contagious conditions is proper, complete, and frequent hand washing, which we emphasize with our students and staff. Good practices also include covering coughs with the elbow and minimizing contact with others if one is ill. We ask that you please share and follow this important information with your children.

Current health care procedures when your child is ill with the flu or other illness are to see a health care provider and keep your student home from school. We recommend that your student stay home until the fever is below 100 degrees without medication and vomiting has stopped for at least 24 hours. To be cautious, we might also suggest that this time be extended to 48-72 hours after the fever is below 100 degrees without medication and vomiting has stopped, or a doctor has cleared the student to return to school. We would ask that those families with sick children please be very vigilant in monitoring health conditions and self-quarantining their immediate families in accordance with published guidelines to assist us as we work to keep all as safe as possible during this uncertain time. The CDC website provides a great deal of information on this topic: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.

The district continues to follow health care procedures and cleaning protocols in our schools. We are keeping up to date on the latest information, and we are following guidelines from our state and federal agencies.

Be assured that all of our cleaning staff have been trained in the proper procedures for the cleaning and disinfecting of school buildings and surfaces. Our cleaners have appropriate disinfecting and cleaning agents to use when cleaning our schools and buses. They are vigilant when cleaning, especially contact surfaces such as doorknobs, counters, handrails, keyboards, etc.

This is an emerging, rapidly changing public health situation. We encourage you to keep up to date about COVID-19, its treatment and prevention by visiting the following websites:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html>

<https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus/NYSDOH>

<https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html>

Our children's safety is top priority. We will follow up as we gain additional guidance based upon changing conditions. If you have questions, please contact your doctor, or the Steuben County Health Department at (607) 664-2438. As always, thank you for your understanding and support as we address this health issue together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stephen C. Saxton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Stephen Saxton
Superintendent of Schools



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Steuben County NY

Steuben County Public Health

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

COVID-19 is a new virus that causes respiratory illness in people and can spread from person to person. This virus was first identified by an outbreak in Wuhan, China in December 2019.
The current risk of contracting the virus in the United States remains low.

Working Together

Steuben County Public Health is working closely with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and local healthcare providers and facilities to follow this virus.

No Confirmed Cases

Currently, there are no confirmed cases in Steuben County. Suspected and confirmed cases are promptly investigated. This is an emerging, rapidly evolving situation. To stay up-to-date on information, please visit CDC's COVID-19 website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov>.

Trusted Information

The following trusted and reliable health sources of information regarding COVID-19 supply the most updated and accurate information. Visiting these sources will help to avoid misinformation and rumors found on the internet and social media.

- CDC: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov
- NYSDOH: <https://health.ny.gov/coronavirus>
- NYSDOH COVID-19 Information Line: 1-888-364-3065
- World Health Organization: <https://who.int/coronavirus>
- Steuben County Public Health: www.steubencony.org/publichealth

Please note that Influenza (flu) is actively occurring in our area. It's not too late to get your flu vaccination from your health care provider or pharmacy. You can use the Flu Vaccine Locator tool for all locations: www.cdc.gov/flu/freeresources/flu-finder-widget.html

What You Can Do

Good health practices can avoid spreading any respiratory illnesses and should be followed every day:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds at a time. 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 if you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissues, then throw the tissue in the trash. If a tissue is not available, cough or sneeze into your curved elbow.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

**If you have questions, please call Steuben County Public Health at
607-664-2438 or visit our social media pages:**

Facebook: SCNYPublicHealth

Instagram: SteubenPublicHealth