



January 28, 2020

Dear Horseheads Central School District Parents/Guardians and Staff:

You may be aware of a respiratory virus affecting China and other parts of the world, including some cases in the United States, called “coronavirus.” Please be aware that as of today, there have been no confirmed cases in New York State. Attached is a fact sheet about coronavirus from the Chemung County Health Department.

The reason for this communication is to let you know that we are aware of this health alert, and we are also aware that we are in the midst of flu season. As such, we wish to reiterate the importance of good hygiene habits to 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 share this important information with your children as well. If your child is ill with a fever and/or vomiting, please keep him/her home from school until his/her fever is below 100 degrees without medication and vomiting has stopped for 24 hours.

Please be assured that all of our cleaning staff have been trained in the proper procedures for the cleaning and disinfection of school buildings. Our cleaners have appropriate disinfecting and cleaning agents to use when cleaning our schools. They are vigilant when cleaning, especially contact surfaces such as door knobs, counters, physical education equipment, etc.

Please know that our children’s safety is a priority and that we are doing all we can to protect our children, and we know you are doing the same. If you have any questions, please contact your building principal or nurse. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Thomas J. Douglas
Superintendent of Schools



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Chemung County Health
Department

Chemung County Health Department

What You Should Know About Coronavirus

About Coronavirus

Coronavirus, a respiratory virus, is currently in the news. Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses, some causing mild to moderate respiratory tract illness.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is currently tracking a new strain, the “2019 Novel Coronavirus” (2019-nCoV) that started in China. The first confirmed case in the United States was reported on January 21, 2020. The CDC is still investigating to learn more information.

Preventing Respiratory Illness

Right now, there have been no confirmed cases of 2019-nCoV in Chemung County or in New York State - so there are no additional precautions recommended for the general public to take. However, the CDC always recommends these everyday actions to prevent respiratory illnesses:

- Minimize close contact with people who have symptoms of respiratory illness, such as coughing or sneezing.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing.
- Use the nearest waste receptacle to dispose of the tissue after use.
- Wash your hands regularly.
- Avoid sharing personal items such as eating or drinking utensils, toothbrushes, and towels. You should especially avoid sharing these items with sick persons.
- Maintain a clean environment.

Get the facts!

For updates on the coronavirus, visit the CDC:

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

**If you have questions about the coronavirus call the
Chemung County Health Department at 607-737-2028.**