

Wayland-Cohocton Central School

MISSION: *To ensure high levels of learning for all students.*

VISION: *To continuously develop our capacity to function as a collaborative culture.*



Excellence Starts Here!

Dear Wayland-Cohocton Families,

The Wayland-Cohocton Central School District as well as all schools continue to actively monitor the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) with guidance from the New York State and County Health Departments. The safety of our students and staff is of the utmost importance and we will act out of an abundance of caution to protect everyone's health.

There are a number of steps that students, staff and community members can take to minimize the spread of all respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19. According to the NYS Department of Health:

- 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. Heavily soiled hands should be washed.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick. This is being referred to as social distancing.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash. This may be referred to as practicing respiratory etiquette.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

The Livingston County Health Department, in an effort to contain the spread of COVID-19, has identified the following factors of people at high risk for having the virus:

Any individual who has, (1) traveled to a high risk area, or (2) been in close contact with someone with a confirmed case of COVID-19, and (3) has a fever, cough, and/or difficulty breathing.

If a person's symptoms are consistent with the criteria above, then it is recommended that a call be placed to your respective (Steuben, Livingston, Ontario) County Health Departments for additional screening and assistance. This course of action is recommended instead of traveling to an emergency room or doctor's office.

As general guidelines, always keep a child home if:

- A fever is present or has been present within the last 24 hours
- The child is not well enough to participate in class
- It is suspected the child may be contagious to others

Frequently Asked School and COVID-19 Questions and Answers

Q: Are schools required to close if any students or staff are diagnosed with COVID-19?

A: When a school initially has a student or staff that tests positive, the entire school will close for 24 hours while the local department of health investigates and sets forth a plan for any further precautionary measures that the school must take to contain exposure, which may result in additional closure. During this time, the entire school building shall be disinfected in accordance with guidelines from NYSDOH with approved

cleaners. Additional closure beyond the 24 hours is a decision that will be made on a case-by-case basis by the local department of health.

Q: *How long may a school be closed if a staff member or student is diagnosed with COVID-19?*

A: This is not predetermined at this time. If a student or staff member attended school prior to being confirmed as positive for COVID-19, local health officials will require an immediate 24 hour closure to disinfect the entire school building, while local health officials begin an investigation to determine contacts the infected person had, and set forth a plan for the containment strategy, including appropriate length of closure for the school.

Q: *What if someone comes to school and then begins to show flu-like symptoms?*

A: Students and staff who appear to have a flu-like illness when they come to school—or who become ill during the school day— should be isolated in a room separate from other people if possible, or kept a minimum of 6 feet away from others while wearing a surgical mask until they can be sent home in accordance with district procedures.

Q: *What can schools do to control the spread of COVID-19 in their schools?*

A: Schools can help reduce the spread of any virus, whether it is the flu virus or COVID-19, by promoting good hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette, enforcing ill students and staff to stay home, and separating ill students and staff from well persons until they are able to go home.

As a district, with no confirmed cases within any of our counties, we are:

- Frequently cleaning common areas including countertops, door hardware, bus seats, etc.
- Communicating the precautions to avoid spreading COVID-19
- Monitoring attendance and communicating with our respective county health departments
- Monitoring illness among students and staff
- Reviewing and updating emergency plan
- Discussing the potential to limit all unnecessary travel
- Discussing the potential to limit gatherings to only essential events or consider postponing essential events.

In situations like these, rumors may cause unnecessary reactions and panic. Therefore, we encourage you to get information from credible sources. I have included some links for your reference.

Additional Links and Resources

Talking to Children about COVID-19: A Parent Resource

https://www.pmsd.org/site/handlers/filedownload.ashx?moduleinstanceid=3590&dataid=13705&FileName=COVID-19_parent_handout_NASP_NASN_2-20_FINAL.pdf

Center of Disease Control

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

New York State Health Department

<https://www.health.ny.gov/>

Livingston County Department of Health

<https://www.livingstoncounty.us/172/Department-of-Health>

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

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

Travel: Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

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

COVID-19: What is Stigma and What Causes It?

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fstigma-faq.html

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) - Frequently Asked Questions - Prevention

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html#prevention>

Prevention, Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/prevention-treatment.html>

In addition, New York State has established a Novel Coronavirus Hotline, which can provide additional information. Call 1-888-364-3065 with questions or concerns about travel and symptoms.

We will continue to update you as we learn more information. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.