



Answers to Your Frequently Asked Questions

Where can I find additional information about the COVID-19 virus?

The CDC has a list of frequently asked questions and recommended best practices for staying healthy:

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

The New York State Department of Health website has up-to-date information:

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

In addition, information will be updated on our website:

<http://www.skanschools.org/districtpage.cfm?pageid=2792>.

What is the best precaution for preventing the spread of the virus?

Please exercise proper hand washing as well as good coughing and sneezing hygiene. The NYS Department of Health recommends the following:

- 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.
- 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.

What do I do if my child(ren) show signs of illness?

Please keep them home and contact your family physician.

What should I do if I believe my child may have symptoms of COVID-19?

Please keep your child at home if they are showing any symptoms of COVID-19, and call your physician for further instructions. If you do not have a family physician, please call an urgent care facility, or a hospital emergency room. The health departments ask that you do not take

your child to their physician, an urgent care, or a hospital emergency room, before calling ahead.

What will happen if a child or adult goes to the school nurse with symptoms of COVID-19.

Our nurses have been instructed to mask the symptomatic person, and will isolate them until a parent can pick up the child. Adults will be immediately sent home. Parents will be instructed to follow up with a phone call to their physician, urgent care, or hospital emergency room.

What if I want to keep my child home to prevent them from getting sick?

Unless your child has a note from your doctor excusing them, this is technically an unexcused absence and would be marked accordingly. This is not meant to be punitive. If we receive a new directive from the state or from the NYS Department of Health, we will adjust our procedures.

Will schools be closed?

In the event that a person in our district, who has been in contact with anyone diagnosed with COVID-19, they will be asked to self-quarantine for 14 days. We will continue to follow the protocols below that are already in place.

- Custodians will be making every attempt to disinfect door handles and water fountains both during the school day and after hours.
- All school buses will be wiped down with disinfectant after every use.
- Hand sanitizers and disinfectant wipes will be made available to students and staff.

In the event that a person who attends our schools is diagnosed with COVID-19, we will follow the directives of the NYS Department of Health. Schools initially will be closed to allow for a proper investigation and thorough cleaning of our buildings and buses.

Any changes to our school day will be communicated to families via the School Messenger Communication system.

Why is the district not closing school now as a proactive measure to prevent the spread of the virus?

While it is safe for us to continue educating our students, and as there have been no COVID-19 cases found in Onondaga or Cayuga Counties, our schools will remain open. We are taking all of the precautionary measures that have been advised to ensure our buildings and buses are kept clean and safe. The NYS Department of Health will mandate school closings if keeping schools open is no longer safe.

What are the schools doing to help prevent the spread of viruses in the buildings/buses?

Additional cleaning efforts continue both in the school district buildings and on our school buses as do our messages to students about good hand washing habits. As noted, when hand washing is not an option, the use of hand sanitizers is an option and have been provided to all schools.

Is the school district preparing for a possible closure for an extended period of time?

At present (03.12.20), we continue to be in close contact with the NYS Health Department and Onondaga County officials, and will follow all protocols, if they become necessary.

Are school events/activities/field trips being cancelled at this time?

We are looking at events as they come up to make sure our students are not exposed to any potential risks. Our High School has cancelled trips to Spain and to Washington, DC. We have been in contact with the families affected by the cancellation. We will continue to monitor other field trips as they come up.

At this time, we have decided to postpone the following events as well:

Sophomore Circus and Senior Pasta Dinner, the Elementary PTC Family Reading Night

We will continue to discuss all upcoming events and field trips, which will be cancelled if we feel our students would be at risk.

If any upcoming events are cancelled, information will be sent to all families via the School Messenger communication system.

Can teaching and learning continue virtually if students and staff need to work from home during an extended period of time?

At this point, the district does not have the capacity or training nor do families all have access and connectivity to technology to rely on a virtual learning option. We are looking at other options that do not rely on technology and will share out info when possible.

What do I tell my child(ren) about the virus and how do I help them understand what is happening?

Please remain calm and reassuring and give them age appropriate information. Try to limit over-exposure to the television news and social media. We will provide links on our website to the most current information from the NYS Health Department. This video may help explain the virus to young children:

<https://www.brainpop.com/health/diseasesinjuriesandconditions/coronavirus/>

Where can I get more information about our schools and district responses? If you have specific questions or concerns, please reach out to the school health office where your student attends. Specific questions may also be emailed to jbryant@skanschools.org