



BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Superintendent

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The health and safety of our community is a shared responsibility that is always our top priority. As you know, the situation with the COVID-19 Coronavirus is rapidly evolving. As of today, we are aware of thirty-three (33) confirmed Coronavirus cases in our state. There are no confirmed cases in Erie County at this time; 116 people are under voluntary quarantine for Coronavirus testing.

As we look across the international, national, and local landscape, we request local, regional, and state-wide health professionals to give clear, nuanced guidance regarding the spread of this virus. It is my intent to clarify our various protocols around this matter and to indicate the level of preparation and planning that is occurring should a community level outbreak occur. This week I have been working closely with local health and NYSED officials, along with a team of District leaders and educators, to further develop plans for what we can do to maintain in-school education in the Buffalo City School District while minimizing the spread of illness.

In addition to washing your hands often, adhering to coughing and sneezing etiquette, keeping your hands away from your face, and staying home when you are ill, we have upgraded the following protocols. First Student, Inc. is implementing national protocols for hygienic safety on yellow buses, our Food Service Department is on heightened alert to follow proper Food Service Safety & Sanitation processes at all times, and maximum strength disinfectant wipes and broad-spectrum cleaning solution with 48-hour germ killing properties are now being distributed for regular use in our schools and classrooms. We will continue to build this tool chest of safety measures as we go. The attached information sheet outlines key strategic areas that we are addressing and that will likely evolve in the coming days and weeks.

For now, all schools are open, aware, calm, focused, and clear about the need to work together. Should school dismissal or school closure be required, our information technology team is working with our curriculum and instruction team to devise multiple plans to ensure continuity of education, including e-learning and take home materials. School closure will be based on recommendations made by the State Education Department and the Erie County Department of Health.

Staff will submit all requests and information regarding school sponsored travel (from field trips, to spring break travel, to conferences). Information will be shared with health officials to assess and determine necessity and/or safety of travel and/or possible (14-day) quarantine upon return. We also strongly encourage families and staff to report personal spring break travel plans to us.

Please check our website daily for Erie County Department of Health, New York State Department of Health, Center for Disease Control, and World Health Organization linked updates. I appreciate your patience in this unusual time and trust you will continue to share your thoughts and concerns with us.

Sincere regards,

Dr. Kriner Cash
Superintendent

“Putting Children & Families First to Ensure High Academic Achievement for All”