

March 13, 2020

Dear Harpurville Central School District Community:

I know that the coronavirus (COVID-19) is on everyone's mind and it is on my mind too. On behalf of the district, we remain committed to providing updated information to everyone as often as is necessary. Additionally, we remain committed to the health and safety of our entire school community, including remaining vigilant in our efforts to prevent the spread of the virus. Thus, please allow me to provide some information related to this topic.

First, the Harpurville Central School District still **does not** have any confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the district. I continue to be in regular contact with local and state health departments, the NYS Education Department, and other local superintendents. We will continue to coordinate with and utilize these sources of information to determine any future actions. Clearly, this is a fluid and rapidly evolving situation, so information can change quickly.

As of the writing of this letter on the evening of Friday, March 13, 2020, the Harpurville Central Schools are **not** planning to close our schools. We are planning to operate on a normal schedule next week. School events, such as athletic practices, extra-curricular clubs, or the after-school programs, being held at the school and involving only Harpurville students and staff, will continue next week too.

The district is making some changes to its operations, beginning Monday, March 16th and continuing until further notice, as follows:

- All field trips or extra-curricular trips are suspended.
- All large-group gatherings at the school (i.e. indoor sports contests, assemblies, meetings, community events, etc.) are suspended.
- All non-HCS events or meetings held on our campus or in our school buildings are suspended.
- In other words, all activities and visitors not directly related to the normal operation of school and normal school activities for HCS students are suspended.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding regarding these necessary changes. We realize that these cancelations can be disappointing, but they are essential components in prioritizing the health and safety of our community and are important in impeding the spread of COVID-19.

Please know that the district has been taking additional steps to promote the well-being of everyone in our school community, such as:

- The facilities and transportation departments have increased the level of cleaning on a daily basis.
- Our food services is enacting some required new steps for serving meals to students. For example, students are no longer able to self-serve in the cafeteria line.
- The district has ordered additional cleaning supplies.
- We are encouraging routine hand-washing and proper hygiene.

The district is also reviewing processes and plans in the event that a school closure is necessary. If there is a

confirmed case of COVID-19 among our staff or students, the NYS Department of Health requires the district to be closed for a minimum of 24 hours. Additionally, we may need to close for an extended period of time. If that happens, the district will continue to provide free breakfast and lunch (10 meals per week) to all students age 18 and under. We will communicate more information on this topic should it become necessary to ensure everyone knows when and where to access these meals.

Please be reminded that official information from the district will only be provided through its website or the all-call system. Only information directly from these sources should be considered official statements from the district.

In closing, we will continue to take our lead from the NYS Department of Health, the NYS Education Department, and other local state governmental officials. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns at mrullo@hcs.stier.org or (607)693-8112. Also, continue to use the district's website for previous and updated communication and resources regarding this fast-changing public health issue.

I wish everyone all the best for good health and safety!

Sincerely,



Michael J. Rullo
Superintendent of Schools

