



Superintendent of Schools
Michael J. Hoose
1 Valley View Drive
Cortland, NY 13045
(v) 607.758.4100 (f) 607.758.4109
mhoose@cortlandschools.org

March 3, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians

I am writing to provide information on some recent community health discussions. As a district we are always committed to the safety and well-being of all our students, employees, and families. As some of you may have heard, SUNY Cortland recently had a confirmed case of mumps on the college campus. The situation is being monitored closely and the college and community partners, which includes our school district, have and continue to take steps to minimize risk. Health officials indicate there is a low risk for community transmission.

Nearly all school age students are fully immunized against mumps. Immunizations provide protection, but individual students may have other medical conditions which may result in a student being immunocompromised. We ask parents who have concerns regarding an individual student's risk to consult with their primary care physician for guidance.

Simultaneously, there are on-going discussions and planning within our community, state, and country focusing on the coronavirus (COVID-19). The district is partnering with the County Health Department and many community agencies to be proactive in our planning and preparedness and to ensure practices within our schools promote healthy habits.

Like with all viruses and illnesses, there's a tremendous reliance on individual precautions. The district is purchasing additional hand sanitizers in all of our buildings and have employed additional cleaning measures. As best practice for overall health, the CDC recommends that we engage in everyday, proactive measures to prevent the spread of germs and avoid illness, such as:

- 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.
- Avoid sharing cups, water bottles, food, utensils and other similar items.
- Avoid spreading the disease through airborne particles; Sneeze and cough into a tissue or elbow.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

We will continue to emphasize healthy behaviors with our students to promote a healthy environment. Please help us teach and reinforce these practices with your children. If your child is exhibiting flu symptoms, such as a fever and a cough, we ask that you keep your child at home and visit your doctor. If you have questions regarding mumps or the coronavirus and/or the district's steps to minimize risk, please contact your school principal or nurse.

We will continue to keep you updated. Included below are several links for your information. As always, the health and safety of our school community remains our highest priority.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Michael J. Hoose'.

Superintendent of Schools

Quick Links for your reference:

- [CDC's 2019-nCoV website](#)
- <https://www.cdc.gov/mumps/index.html>
- [NYS Department of Health's dedicated 2019-nCoV website](#)

Board of Education

Janet S. Griffin, President, Judith E. Murphy, Vice President, Donald Chu,
Christine A. Gregory, Christopher A. Kurelich, David K. Lemon and Eugene Waldbauer