

CHIPPEWA LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
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March 9, 2020;

Chippewa Local Schools recognize that there are concerns about the encroaching spread of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) and its potential impact on schools. The best information available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will be found on their website, www.cdc.gov/coronavirus2019-ncov/about/index.html. Please note in February 2020, the World Health Organization announced they officially changed the name to "coronavirus disease 2019" abbreviated to COVID-19. I mention this so there is no confusion.

At this time, while there is no anti-viral treatment that attacks the Coronavirus, individuals are being treated with pain relievers, cough syrup and other medications for the symptoms. So, it is important that we focus heavily on prevention. As we await further guidance from the CDC and Wayne County Health Department, <https://www.wayne-health.org/coronavirus>, on specific strategies for schools, we encourage you to follow common sense strategies for preventing the spread of communicable diseases:

Individual level

- Do not attend school or public functions when exhibiting cold and flu-like symptoms.
- You must be 24-hour free of a fever before returning to school.
- Wash your hands periodically throughout the day for a minimum of 20 seconds.
- Cover your cough or sneezes with a tissue and throw the tissue away. If a tissue is not available, cough or sneeze into the inside of your elbow. Avoid coughing and sneezing into your hands.
- Use anti-bacterial products daily on all high-touch surfaces, such as laptops and cell phones.
- Avoid touching your face with your hands, especially your eyes, nose and mouth.

System/District Level:

- School nurses will be vigilant in monitoring the student body, especially in cases where students exhibit symptoms associated with the virus.
- We will stay in daily contact with the Wayne County Health Department and follow CDC protocols and remember, while the Coronavirus news is concerning, it is important to point out that there are other respiratory viruses like influenza currently circulating in schools. Fever, coughing and difficulty breathing are symptoms associated with all of them. Therefore, anyone exhibiting these symptoms should not be assumed to have COVID-19.
- The school buildings, locker rooms and buses will receive a thorough disinfection over Spring Break.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our children and schools safe and healthy. We will continue our relationships and communications with the public health officials and update everyone when new and relevant information is available.

Sincerely,

Todd S. Osborn, Superintendent
Chippewa Local Schools