



# *AKRON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT*

## *In Pursuit of Excellence*

*Patrick D. McCabe*  
*Superintendent of Schools*

March 12, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Please allow this letter to serve as part of our on-going commitment to provide timely and accurate information on the District's response to the coronavirus (COVID-19). We will continue to post letters to the website as part of our overall communication strategy.

Travel: The Erie County Department of Health Commissioner has advised school districts to refrain from travel outside of the local Western New York area. As of today, the end date of this recommendation has not been determined. This is a rapidly developing situation and school districts will continue to update practices and procedures according to the latest guidance. There are no out of the country school sponsored trips planned for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. If students or staff take a personal trip and return from one of the currently impacted countries or regions of impacted countries, they will be required to be under precautionary quarantine for 14 days upon return.

Containment: The Department of Health (DOH) has indicated that community containment strategies are an effective means of reducing the spread of the virus. In an effort to minimize risk of infection and control the spread of COVID-19, the following non-pharmaceutical interventions should be followed. First, students or staff should stay home when sick. If students or staff show symptoms of coronavirus, communication should be made with the Erie County DOH. Second, students or staff who develop respiratory illness symptoms during the school day will be isolated promptly in a room separate from others. Parents will be contacted to take the student home and the student may be required to wear a mask while awaiting transportation home. Third, because COVID-19 spreads from person to person in droplets produced by coughs and sneezes, practicing proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette is essential. Fourth, the District has been and will continue to perform routine environmental cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch surfaces such as doorknobs, light switches, and countertops.

School closings & cancellations: Schools are not expected to make decisions about closing or canceling events on their own. The local health department will notify the District if and when the school must close due to COVID-19 and when a school can reopen. The District will work in close collaboration and coordination with the state and local health officials to close school and/or cancel large events if necessary.

Response to confirmed cases: As of today, there are no confirmed cases in Erie County. If a student or staff member were to be identified as testing positive for COVID-19, the District will notify State health officials to determine what additional steps are needed for the school community. In addition, students and staff who are well but are taking care of, or share a home with someone with a case of COVID-19, must not attend school and must follow precautionary quarantine instructions from State health officials, who will determine when it is safe for them to return to school. In such a circumstance, the District is required to maintain the confidentiality of the student or staff member in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Family Education Rights and Privacy Act.

If a student or staff member attended school prior to being confirmed as a COVID-19 case, New York State DOH requires an initial 24-hour closure, in order to begin an investigation to determine the contacts that the individual may have had within the school environment. That investigation will inform the plan determined by the Erie County DOH as to any further required closure, or other necessary precautions to take for specific classrooms, or for specific individuals. During that initial 24-hour closure the District will immediately take steps to clean and disinfect the school building(s) where the student or staff had contact prior to testing positive for COVID-19. That disinfection must be in accordance with NYS DOH guidelines and must be complete before accepting returning students.

The Department of Health has informed us that people who have returned from an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19 more than 14 days ago and do not have symptoms are not infected with the virus and contact with them will not give you the virus.

I have included several links for your reference at the bottom of this letter. The health and safety of our community, including our students, faculty, and staff, remains our highest priority, and collectively we can work to ensure this goal.

Sincerely,

Patrick D. McCabe  
Superintendent of Schools

Quick Links for your reference:

Erie County Department of Health-  
[Erie County Health Department](#)

NYS Department of Health-  
[NYS Health Department](#)

Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)-  
[Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#)