

Canastota Central School District

120 Roberts Street, Canastota, New York 13032 • 315.697.2025

District Office

Nicholas A. Panuccio
School District Business Leader

Shawn D. Bissetta
Superintendent of Schools



March 13, 2020

Good Afternoon,

As a challenging week draws to a close, I wanted to provide you with an update to the district's response to the coronavirus issue. First of all, I'd like to thank all of our students, staff and families for working together to make the best of a very difficult situation. In many ways we are in uncharted territory, and your patience and cooperation will be a key factor in our ability to successfully navigate through this challenge. The following is a summary of what we know at this point:

- The Department of Health will immediately notify the district of any positive coronavirus test results and coordinate with the district on an appropriate response. As of today, there are no positive results associated with our school.
- In the event the district is notified that a student or staff member has tested positive for coronavirus, the entire school facility will immediately be closed for a minimum of 24 hours to allow for coordination with regional health experts. Again, we have no evidence of any positive tests at this time. If this changes, families will be notified as soon as the district receives this confirmation.
- Health experts continue to recommend frequent and thorough handwashing to minimize the chances of infection. Please continue to reinforce this important preventative measure to your family. In the event that your child is not feeling well, please keep them home from school and consult with your family physician if necessary.
- Governor Cuomo has initiated a ban on all public events of 500 or more people. Additionally, all venues with a capacity of under 500 must reduce the allowable capacity by 50%. While schools are not required to comply with this directive, we are using it as a guideline to determine whether or not an event moves forward as scheduled. As a result, several school sponsored events have been cancelled. Please continue to check the district website and Facebook page for updates on schedule changes, as changes and modifications will be a likely reality in the coming days.
- All school facilities are undergoing extensive cleaning protocols on a regular basis. In addition to regularly employed daily cleaning practices, enhanced weekly "deep cleaning" is underway in all of our buildings. This will continue for the foreseeable future.

-While we are hopeful that classes will continue as usual, the district is devising a plan to continue to support students and their families in the event that closure of school is necessary. Once adequate information has been shared with us from the State Education Department, a comprehensive plan for supporting academics remotely will be clearly shared if and when we are forced into this situation. There is no substitute for daily interaction between students and their teachers, but there are still opportunities to support learning in non-traditional ways. At this point, we are still awaiting additional clarifying information from the State Education Department. Again, we will share detailed plans if this becomes a strong possibility. Comments made by Governor Cuomo yesterday suggest that the closing of schools will be avoided if at all possible. We'll hope for the best and are planning to be creative if necessary.

Thank you once again for your support of our school district. Great schools and communities are at their best when faced with a challenge, and I am fully confident that Canastota will rise to the challenge. We will continue to update you as the situation evolves. Please try to enjoy your weekend, and please stay safe.

Additional references regarding the coronavirus are attached for your reference.

Sincerely,



Shawn D. Bissetta
Superintendent of Schools

CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-schools.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fspecific-groups%2Fguidance-for-schools.html

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

<https://www.hhs.gov/>

U.S. Department of Education

<https://www.ed.gov/coronavirus>

New York State Department of Health

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/sss/schoolhealth/schoolhealthservices/coronavirus/covid-19-p-12-school-guidance.pdf>

Madison County Department of Health

<https://www.madisoncounty.ny.gov/206/Health-Department>