

March 13, 2020

Dear GCSD School Community,

The GCSD Safety Committee and Emergency Response Team is meeting regularly to review COVID-19 (Coronavirus) information as it is received from New York State Education Department (SED), NYS Department of Health (DOH), Columbia County Department of Health, as well as other local, state and federal authorities.

The Committee reviews recommendations and guidance, and continually adjusts our immediate response plan, as well as our planned response for additional possible issues.

Guidance was received on the following topics: 24-hour Closure Rule, Strategies/Best Practices for Community Containment, Travel Related Considerations, Anti-Discrimination Considerations, Ensuring Continuity of Student Needs in the event of School Closure. Guidance from these sources changes on a daily basis and we will continue to communicate updates via our district website, social media and robocall, if necessary.

Our staff continues to clean and disinfect all high-touch and high-traffic areas daily throughout our school to minimize the spread of all respiratory viruses. Students and staff are reminded about the importance of following proper handwashing technique and practicing good hygiene.

Germantown CSD places a high priority on the health and safety of our student body and staff, and we will continue to be proactive with regard to COVID-19. As of today, 3/13/2020, the following changes will be implemented:

- **School Days** – School days will run as per our calendar.
- **March Superintendent’s Conference Day** – changed as follows:
 - Monday, March 16, 2020 - Superintendent’s Conference Day for staff, no school for students.
 - Friday, March 20, 2020 - Regular school day for students and staff
- **Weekends** beginning 3/13/20 – The GCSD facility will close each Friday night at 11:00 p.m. and reopen each Monday morning at 6:00 a.m. Absolutely no person other than the individual designated to check on the building’s systems is allowed to enter the building.
- **Field Trips** – All field trips outside of our school district have been canceled for March
- **Athletic Games** - NYS Athletic Assoc. and Section II canceled all athletic contests through April 19th
- **Public Events (except Board of Education meetings)** – All March events scheduled to be held at the GCSD facility have been postponed as of Friday 3/13/2020 and will be considered for rescheduling in the future. Events include:
 - Spring Musical
 - PTSA Potluck Dinner
 - Any event that was previously approved, and includes attendees other than students or staff

If the District becomes aware that a student or staff member is diagnosed with COVID-19, we will notify the school community immediately. If you or a family member begin showing symptoms of a respiratory illness, contact your primary healthcare provider. Guidance requires a two-day closure if one case is confirmed for a student or staff member. If a closure occurs the district will work with the Columbia County Health Department to disinfect the building prior to reopening.

The GCSD Emergency Response Plan requires preparations for the event of a prolonged school closure. During the Superintendent's Conference Day on Monday educators will develop student assignments that will be given to students to take home in the event it is needed in the future. In addition, today your child will bring home an **iPad Permission Form**. By signing and returning the iPad Permission Form your 4th through 12th grade child may bring their iPad home on a daily basis. The form is also posted on the district's website: www.germantowncsd.org

Additional information:

New York has established a Coronavirus Hotline, which can provide additional information. Call 1-888-364-3065 with questions or concerns about travel and symptoms.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

<https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus/>

<https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/index.html>