



March 2, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian:

We wanted to update you as we monitor the coronavirus. While Argyle does not have a confirmed case of COVID-19, caused by the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) in our school, we are aware of the concerns about the spread of this relatively new virus.

Based on most recent reports, there has been one confirmed case of COVID-19 in New York State (Manhattan) at this time.

Should the Argyle Central School District become aware that a student or staff member is diagnosed with COVID-19, it will immediately notify staff and parents/guardians.

If a student or staff member shows respiratory symptoms, we will follow our current practice for handling respiratory illnesses, subject to any additional guidance forthcoming. As well, the local health departments will contact schools if a suspected or known COVID-19 case emerges. The district is prepared to work with any affected families.

The district is paying careful attention to this fluid situation and is following guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), Washington County Department of Health and the New York State Education Department.

The district has infectious disease protocols in place to minimize the spread of viruses and a variety of other illnesses. There are several steps students, staff and community members can take to minimize the spread of all respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19, according to the state Department of Health:

- 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 touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

In addition, New York has established a Novel Coronavirus Hotline, which can provide additional information. Call 1-888-364-3065 with questions or concerns about travel and symptoms. The district will continue to share information as it becomes available.



Please know that, as always, the health and safety of our students and staff is our highest priority, and we will remain vigilant in our efforts to help prevent the spread of this illness.

Sincerely,  
*Michael Healey*  
Michael Healey

Superintendent