

Monroe 2–Orleans BOCES COVID-19 Update 3/13/2020

Monroe 2–Orleans BOCES continues to actively monitor the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) with guidance from the New York State and Monroe County Departments of Health. The safety of our students and staff is of the utmost importance and we will act out of an abundance of caution to protect everyone's health and wellbeing.

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

CURRENT DISTRICT STATUS

LEVEL 2

According to health officials, people in our region are still considered at low risk for contracting COVID-19. In an effort to respond to the recent outbreak of COVID-19, we have developed levels of response that are outlined in this document. Given the recent confirmed case in Monroe County, we are now operating at Level 2.

This is a rapidly changing situation. School districts have been advised to prepare for COVID-19 and monitor illness among students and staff. We recommend you make a plan for childcare now should schools need to be closed for an extended period in the future.

Any decision to cancel large events or close schools will be made in collaboration and coordination with state and local health officials.

Preventing the spread of illness is a community responsibility and ***we encourage you and your children to practice the following healthy habits:***

- **Frequent handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.**
- **Avoid touching our eyes, nose, and mouth.**
- **Cover coughs or sneezes with your elbow.**
- **Stay home when sick and seek medical attention when necessary.**
- **Avoid close contact with people who are sick.**
- **Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces such as counters, phones door knobs and light switches.**

As recommended by state and county health officials, schools and BOCES 2 are taking additional precautions now to mitigate illness transmissions. If students or staff develop symptoms that include fever and cough during the day they will be isolated from others and will be triaged according to established protocols. We have also stepped up routine cleaning procedures in classrooms, on buses, and in bathrooms.

In situations like these, rumors may cause unnecessary reactions and panic. Therefore, we encourage you to get information from credible sources. The New York State Department of Health has established a webpage with updates, key messages, frequently asked questions, travel advisories and more at: <https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus/>.

You can also call the hotline at 1-888-364-3065.

If there is a COVID-19 case related to the Monroe 2–Orleans BOCES, we will be contacted by the NYSDOH in consultation with the local health department. BOCES 2 will inform students, staff and families accordingly.

Any further decisions about school restrictions or closings will be made in collaboration and coordination with state and local health officials.



LEVEL 1

(Actively Monitoring-No Cases locally)

- More frequently clean common areas including countertops, door hardware, bus seats, etc.
- Communicate online and to campuses the precautions to avoid spreading COVID-19
- Continue to monitor attendance and communicate with Monroe County Department of Health
- Communicate to families/staff to stay home if sick
- Monitor illness among students and staff
- Review and update emergency plans
- Begin bi-weekly departmental briefings for communication updates
- Potentially limit all unnecessary travel
- Potentially limit large gatherings to only essential events or consider postponing essential events

LEVEL 2

(Containment-Cases identified locally)

- Ramp up cleaning efforts to expand to cleaning less frequently used areas in addition to common areas
- Potentially limit/restrict outside visitors and guests
- Develop contingency plans and review business continuation plan
- Continue all Level 1 activities

LEVEL 3

(Mitigation-Confirmed Cases among students/staff)

- Affected school(s) will close for 24-hours while the local department of health investigates and sets forth a plan for further precautionary measures that the school must take to limit exposure, which may include additional closure
- Potentially cancel all district events (athletics, fine arts, etc.)
- In the event of extended campus closures, communicate to families about schoolwork accommodations and access points for supports such as supplemental food and supplies
- Communicate to staff about which staff members are to report in order to maintain services and which can work from home
- Perform a deep clean of all areas