



Onaway Area Community School



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Working together to prepare students for life.

Go Cardinals!!

March 12, 2020

Dear Community Members,

On March 10, the Governor announced the first two cases of the novel coronavirus in Michigan. While these cases are not in our area, we are still concerned about the safety and welfare of our students, parents, friends, and neighbors. There has been a lot of information circulating in the last few days and unfortunately, some misinformation. Our School will continue, as always, to follow the guidance from the Health Department, Michigan Department of Education, and the State of Michigan.

Here is what is considered the “basics” for minimizing our risks for the spread of this disease:

- wash your hands often with soap and water or use hand sanitizer;
- avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands;
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing;
- avoid handshakes;
- avoid contact with sick people who are sick; and
- stay home when you are sick.

Any potential decision to close schools due to this or any communicable disease would only be done under the guidance of Health Departments, Michigan Department of Education, and the State of Michigan. Many are wondering why local Schools would remain open if several colleges in the state have closed for an extended period of time. Following is a quote from our local health department that explains this concern:

“Although some colleges and universities are choosing to move toward virtual instruction instead of face-to-face instruction, that does not mean that K-12 settings should opt for parallel action. Colleges and universities are dramatically different environments with unique opportunities for disease transmission, such as housing in dormitories, that are not present in K-12 schools.”

We will continue to monitor information as it comes in and continue to work on our plans to make potential adjustments to schedules and events as recommended and necessary. I believe the biggest things we need to do are to remain calm, continue to stay abreast of the latest developments, and continue with the hygiene practices that we encourage all of our students to do everyday.



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Here are some links to the latest information that is available. Keep in mind, the information surrounding this situation is changing rapidly:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=kIL5m5XznNY&feature=youtu.be>

https://www.michigan.gov/documents/coronavirus/MDHHS_Interim_Recommendations_for_COVID-19_final_683589_7.pdf

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools-faq.html>

Remember that we are a strong community and we need to take care of one another. Be patient and understanding to everyone and we will figure this all out.

Sincerely,

Rod Fullerton

Superintendent/Business Manager