



Geneseo Central School District

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

School Closure Until Further Notice

RE: Public Health Interest Requires School Closure & Cancellation of ALL Activities

In consultation with Livingston County Department of Health, Livingston County Officials, and Genesee Valley Regional Superintendents, we believe that it is now in the best interest of public health to slow the community spread of COVID-19 (coronavirus) that **school will be closed starting Monday, March 16 until further notice. This includes the cancellation of ALL school activities, sports, and any outside facility use requests.**

The Admin team is meeting today to discuss future plans and if staff will need to report to help disseminate instructional materials. Bus drivers and food service staff should also be prepared to report to work this week as directed in a future communication to review plans for supporting students and families moving forward.

Additional information and plans will be shared in the coming days and throughout our school closure. For now, please understand that our primary goal is to support the safety and well-being of our students, staff, and families. We understand that our central mission as schools is learning but also fiercely commit that learning is much more than academics – it is partnering with our families to support the growth and development of our community's most precious resource – our students. As such, our current thinking and planning comes in three phases:

Phase I Response (Initial 3-5 days)

- Mobilize for food stability among our families & within the community
- Allow our staff time to stabilize their families & when able support neighbors and friends in our community with childcare and other needed assistance
- Collect information, gather resources, and prepare for Phase II



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Phase II Response (Weeks 2-3)

- Begin providing learning resources that ALL students & families can access
- Continue & modify if needed, means for distributing food & other supports to families

Phase III Response (Week 4 & beyond)

- Monitor & adjust as needed to support students and families with food stability, other needed services, and learning experiences

As we continue to move forward during these uncertain times, please come together to support one another and follow public health recommendations. We understand that you may have questions and will certainly need to answer questions about this unprecedented public health measure to close school until further notice. Here are a few resources that you may find helpful in answering these questions:

Just for Kids: A Comic Exploring the New Coronavirus

<https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2020/02/28/809580453/just-for-kids-a-comic-exploring-the-new-coronavirus>

How Do You Talk to Children About Coronavirus? Stay Honest and Simple to Avoid Anxiety. Gene Myers NorthJersey.com, USA Today, Feb. 28, 2020

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/health/2020/02/28/talking-children-coronavirus-keep-simple-avoid-stress/4906147002/>

How to Talk to Your Kids About the Coronavirus (and Ease Their Fears) Vivian Manning-Schaffel, NBC News, Updated March 2, 2020

<https://www.nbcnews.com/better/lifestyle/how-talk-your-kids-about-coronavirus-ease-their-fears-ncna1129851>



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We thank our students, families, and community in advance for their patience and cooperation as we work together to support one another through this unprecedented extended school closure. We will continue to communicate with students, families, and our staff through our communication system and social media moving forward.

Related Links:

- Livingston County State of Emergency Declaration
<https://www.livingstoncounty.us/DocumentCenter/View/10647/Livingston-County-State-of-Emergency-03-14-20>
- Livingston County Administrator Ian Coyle Statement on State of Emergency
<https://www.livingstoncounty.us/DocumentCenter/View/10646/Livingston-County-SOE-and-Statement-on-COVID-19-Response>
- Livingston County Public Health Director Letter to Superintendents
<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1r0qDUFcFt02RXB8OixcSbRGbCshVrPsz>

Sincerely,

Cindy Flowers
Geneseo Central School District Superintendent