

## **ELIZABETH KENT**

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**ONEIDA SCHOOL DISTRICT #351**  
**195 S. 300 E.**  
**MALAD, ID 83252**

March 15, 2020

Re: Update on COVID-19

Dear Parents and Oneida Community Members,

Our hope is to keep you as updated and informed as we can during the current health concerns. We have been in meetings with State officials, health officials, and our School Board to determine the best course of action to take for the students and families of our district. Each region and school district is unique and requires an individual plan.

We will be holding school this coming week. We are asking students who have virus symptoms to stay home. In your homes, please follow similar practices that we have implemented in our schools to protect and minimize the spread of germs.

### **How to protect yourself from getting Coronavirus and other related illnesses:**

- Wash your hands frequently and thoroughly for at least 20 seconds.
- Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water aren't available.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash. If you do not have a tissue available, use an elbow sneeze.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects people frequently touch.
- Avoid close contact with anyone showing symptoms of respiratory illness such as coughing and sneezing.
- Social distancing: encourage wherever possible for students to space themselves 3-6 feet apart.

### **Future plans for school closure:**

Many factors go into the decision to close schools. We will continue to monitor the situation in our community and the surrounding areas. We will be in contact with local health authorities and state

officials. Given the current spread rate, there is a possibility there will be a school closure as early as March 30, 2020. This tentative date is being released for you to make plans and arrangements accordingly.

In the event of a school closure, we will conduct school virtually. There will be more information and detail forthcoming on how this would be accomplished.

**Early Out Wednesday, March 18:**

Wednesday, March 18, will be an early release day. The Elementary School will close at 1:50, and the Middle School and High School will close at 2:00 that day. There will be no After School Program. All other days this week will follow the regular school schedule. The purpose of the early out day is for teachers to receive training on how to optimize their abilities to conduct classes virtually.

**Activities, sports, and trips:**

The School Board has asked that all activities and social events be postponed. Field trips and other activities (including Grandparent's Day) that would involve close physical proximity of groups will be rescheduled. At this time, outside sports will be held as scheduled but may be curtailed as the virus spreads. Some of these events may limit spectators. Our Athletic Director, Ms. Wendy Alder, will have more information detailing those expectations and restrictions.

If you have questions or concerns, you may contact me at rich.moore@malad.us or contact your building administrators.

Thank you for your patience and support during this difficult time.

Sincerely,

Rich Moore  
Superintendent

&

Elizabeth Kent  
Public Relations Coordinator  
Oneida School District #351