

## **Oneida School District Pandemic Plan**

It is the top priority of the Oneida School District's Mission to provide a safe learning environment for our students. There is always a potential for a global pandemic to hit our region. It is prudent for our school district to be prepared and proactive in having standard practices in place as well as protocols to be followed if this were to happen. Unfortunately, when a pandemic emerges, the virus can spread quickly because more people are not either immune, nor a vaccination might not be developed. It is necessary for our schools to have a quick response to minimize the spread and will quickly follow these protocols if such an event takes place.

### Goals

- Limit the number of illnesses
- Reduce the spread of the virus within school facilities
- Preserve continuity of essential school functions
- Minimize educational and social disruption
- Minimize economic and academic losses
- Work with local and state health departments to coordinate pandemic plans

### Procedures

- Ensure that staff members understand early detection and report any children exhibiting signs of illness to the school office.
- Each school will closely monitor the attendance of students and staff and report findings.
- Set up prominent notices at all entry points to the facility, advising staff, students, and visitors not to enter if they have illness symptoms.
- Ensure that all personnel are informed with the latest developments of any pandemic episode.
- Notify parents of un-immunized children (if it is an immunization option) that they are excluded from attendance at school.
- Maximize communication with parents and the school community related to health and safety for any pandemic episode. Educate about what each person can do to prepare to respond to minimize health risks. Information may be disseminated through parent letters, social media, website postings, or school newsletters.
- Educate employees, students, parents, and visitors on how to stop the spread of the virus. Notices may be placed around the school (including entrances, notice boards, meeting rooms, and restrooms.) Notices should contain information regarding hand hygiene, covering coughs and sneezes, and student spacing.
- Ensure maximum support and education for ill and affected children.
- Follow guidelines of local and state health departments related to school closings and guidelines for a pandemic episode.
- Support and work with local/state departments in the event vaccinations are offered through school sites.
- Follow the health department recommendations/guidelines related to social distancing, extracurricular activities, and school closings.

Student spacing refers to distancing individuals and strategies to reduce the spread of the virus between people; information should be distributed to all staff, students, and parents.

- Space students' desks three (3) feet apart, in small pods or clusters.
- Discourage prolonged congregation in the hallways, lunchrooms, etc.
- Limit group activities and interactions between classes
- Canceling gym class or other school activities that place individuals in close proximity

### School Cleaning

- Ensure adequate supplies of tissues, hand sanitizing gels, soap and water, and cleaning supplies are available for employees and students.
  - Disinfecting shared work areas, counters, railings, and doorknobs should be performed more frequently during the pandemic.
- Filters of air conditioning systems should be cleaned and changed frequently
- Telephones should not be shared, if at all possible.
- Specialized cleaning solutions are not essential. Standard cleaning products are adequate (including soap and water). They can disinfect surfaces, so the most critical aspect is the frequency of cleaning.
- Where operationally possible, during the day, increase ventilation to the facility to decrease the spread of disease. Following each school day, the school may be thoroughly ventilated and cleaned (either opening all doors and windows or turning up the air conditioning/heating systems.)

### School Closure:

Student safety is a priority. The school district will work with public health officials to determine at what point it is necessary to close school. These closures will be carefully orchestrated to minimize disease transmission. Directions will be provided through the district and public health officials outlining steps to take to minimize spread.

In the event of a lengthy school closure, the information will be given to parents via social media and other communication mediums as to how education options (learning from home) may be delivered during the closure period.

### School Opening Notification:

In the event of a school closing, school recovery and reopening from a pandemic closure will begin when it can be done safely. The district will follow public health recommendations prior to the return to school. School opening will be communicated through local TV, radio stations, and social media outlets.

### Ongoing procedures to maximize a safe and healthy environment:

- Encourage parents to keep children home who are showing signs of illness.
- Emphasize to teachers and staff to stay home if they are sick

- Provide easily accessible soap and water or hand sanitizers and tissues in all restrooms and sinks.
- Ongoing training for custodial staff regarding disinfecting shared work areas, counters, railings, and doorknobs
- Promote appropriate respiratory etiquette and hand hygiene practices.
- Educate employees, students, parents, and visitors on how to stop the spread of the virus and notices may be placed around the school. Notices should contain information regarding hand hygiene, covering coughs and sneezes, and student spacing.