

March 10, 2020

Reference: Illness Prevention Guidance and Resources Update

Dear Muncy Family,

Muncy School District continues to monitor and respond to the rapidly changing circumstances involving the novel coronavirus (COVID 19). In accordance with The Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) Interim Guidance for Schools, we continue to enact recommended preventative measures.

At the time of this correspondence, Pennsylvania has now identified eleven (11) cases of COVID 19 within our commonwealth. Although we are not currently aware of any cases in Lycoming County or within the Muncy Area, this might change in the near future.

Based on further recommendations we could receive from local health officials, our school district's response might change if we were to experience cases of or potential exposures to COVID 19 within our schools. More specifically, there could be potential disruptions to the school calendar in terms of school closings. Additionally, modifications to or cancellations of scheduled field trips, sporting events and extracurricular activities may also become necessary.

Currently, the school district is exploring options for how to address the potential for future disruptions to this year's school calendar while still meeting the instructional requirements of the Pennsylvania School Code. Some of these options include the following: (a) the potential use of more Act 80 days in our calendar*, (b) the potential use of scheduled make-up days remaining in our calendar and (c) the potential addition of days to the end of the school year. Furthermore, we are also exploring the possibility for delivering instruction in a different capacity, provided the state authorizes this as an option for school district consideration.

We will work with our local health officials to continue to provide you with timely and proper notifications as the school year moves forward. Thank you for your continued cooperation and support.

Please consider using the resources below to help keep you informed and prepared.

1. Centers for Disease and Control Prevention Coronavirus Disease 2019 website containing information about what you should know (e.g., how it spreads, symptoms, prevention and treatment, testing and frequently asked questions) and situational updates (e.g., situational summary, cases in the US, global locations with COVID-19, information for travel).

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

2. Pennsylvania Department of Health Coronavirus website containing responses to frequently asked questions about the coronavirus and links to additional resources.

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx>

3. Link to Pennsylvania Emergency Preparedness Guide for being prepared at home for a variety of emergencies including: (a) floods, (b) fires, (c) winter storms, (d) thunderstorms, (e) influenza, (f) hazardous materials etc.

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/Documents/Emergency%20Preparedness/2017%20DOH%20EP%20Guide.pdf>

4. The CDC's current travel notices can be found by accessing the following link:
<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/>.
5. According to the CDC the following steps can help prevent the spread of COVID 19 as follows:
 - a. Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
 - b. Cover any coughs or sneezes with your elbow, do not use your hands!
 - c. Clean surfaces frequently.
 - d. Contain: If you are sick, stay home until you are feeling better.
6. [NASP Guidance on How to Talk to Children about COVID-19](#) - The National Association of School Psychologists developed a guide for parents and caregivers.

*An act 80 day may be counted as an instructional day without having students in attendance as long as teachers participate in PDE approved activities and the district meets minimum hourly requirements.

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