

Catherine Huber, Ed.D.

District Superintendent
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March 21, 2021

Dear BOCES Community,

We were informed today that a student who attends both our alternative education programs at OAOC has tested positive for COVID. In consultation with the Otsego County Department of Health, we need to quarantine students and staff in that program. Impacted students and staff as well as our component school districts have been notified. Students and staff impacted by this exposure will return to their programs on Monday, March 29th or at the date indicated during the quarantine notification call based on exposure date. We have been advised by the Otsego County Department of Health that only those students and staff who have already been notified need to be quarantined and shift to remote learning at this point. **Students in our alternative education program at OAOC who are not quarantined may come to campus to receive their instruction.**

As always, the safety and health of our students and staff are the top priority. We continue to work to support our students, families, and employees during this difficult time and appreciate your cooperation. What we are learning through these experiences with positive cases and potential positive cases is the importance of our health protocols such as wearing masks and maintaining social distance. These protocols are making a difference and limiting exposure. Good hygiene practices such as frequent hand washing remain important steps we all can take to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

If you have questions regarding the COVID-19 virus, please visit or call the health department in your county of residence. For example, if you live in:

Otsego County: https://www.otsegocounty.com/departments/d-m/health_department/covid19.php

Delaware County: <http://delawarecountypublichealth.com/>

Schoharie County: <https://www4.schohariecounty-ny.gov/departments/public-health/>

Greene County: <https://www.greenegovernment.com/departments/public-health/>

If you or a family member is exhibiting symptoms of the COVID-19 virus (fever, cough, and shortness of breath), please do not go to the emergency room or your healthcare provider without first calling for further guidance.

We know this time may be stressful for employees, students, and families. If you feel the need to talk to someone, New York State has established a new Mental Health hotline at 1-844-863-9314. Employees have access to resources provided by BOCES from the Employee Assistance Program. The confidential hotline is 1-800-252-4555.

Thank you for your patience and partnership as we work through this challenging time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Catherine Huber', is positioned below the word 'Sincerely,'.

Catherine Huber, Ed.D.
District Superintendent