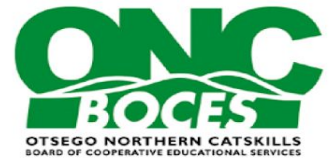


Catherine Huber, Ed.D.

District Superintendent
607-286-7715, Ext. 2224
Email: cmhuber@oncbooces.org



January 10, 2021

Dear BOCES Community,

On January 10th, we confirmed that a staff member at NCOC tested positive for COVID-19. The staff member was in attendance Monday-Wednesday of last week before symptoms started. The staff member was not at work on Thursday or Friday. After an extensive investigation and in consultation with the Delaware and Schoharie County Departments of Health, we have notified impacted staff and students. Due to the number of staff impacted by close contact with the staff member, we are unable to provide adequate staffing/supervision for our students. **As such, we are shifting to remote learning for students on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday at NCOC. New Visions Health students should report to the Center Street location as usual. All staff not impacted by a quarantine order should plan to report to work.** Staff and students at NCOC should self-monitor for any symptoms that arise within the next 10 days and consult with the school nurse or your health care provider if there are any concerns.

In addition to the positive case at NCOC, we were notified this morning that one of our staff members at OAOB developed COVID-like symptoms on Saturday morning. That staff member has been tested and is awaiting results. Out of an abundance of caution and in consultation with the Otsego County Department of Health, our NRO program is shifting to remote instruction on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of this week. We have notified impacted students and staff as well as our component school districts. We have been advised by the Otsego County Department of Health that only our NRO program needs to shift to remote at this point.

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.greengovernment.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 located below the 'Sincerely,' text.

Catherine Huber, Ed.D.
District Superintendent