

Ogdensburg City School District  
1100 State Street  
Ogdensburg, NY 13669



Superintendent of Schools

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As of yesterday afternoon, the World Health Organization (WHO) has declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic. We understand that the uncertainty surrounding this ever-evolving situation causes anxiety among our school community. However, we want to assure our community that we are working diligently to prevent the spread of illness in our schools. We will continue to communicate with parents, staff, and the public and share updates as information becomes available.

The Ogdensburg City School District is working closely with the St. Lawrence County Department of Health (SLC DOH) and following all guidance by the New York State Education Department (NYSED) and NYS Department of Health (NYS DOH), as well as recommendations by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

Maintenance staff continue to take precautions to prevent illness from spreading, by cleaning and disinfecting classrooms and surfaces, in accordance with NYS Department of Health and NYSED guidelines. As with other respiratory viruses, there are simple steps which can help stop the spread of COVID-19:

- Frequent hand-washing with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Stay home when you are sick
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then discard it in the trash

We have a District Wide Safety Plan in place, which includes provisions for infectious disease. We are currently taking steps to update this plan to address specific responses to a potential COVID-19 outbreak.

At this point, decisions to cancel certain travel plans, large group gatherings and events are being made on a case-by-case basis. We will notify our community of any cancellation of upcoming events as soon as the decision is made. We anticipate clear directives from the SLC DOH on these types of events moving forward.

The Ogdensburg City School District will follow directives from the NYSED and NYS DOH on closures:

- If a case is detected in school, the school will immediately close for a 24 hour period for disinfecting and investigation into the contacts among staff and students.
- The decision to close will come from the NYS DOH and NYSED.
- If an investigation determines that there was widespread contact within the school, the school will close for a 14 day period.

We are currently examining options for online learning should a closure occur. We are still in the information gathering stage and details have yet to be determined.

We will continue to update our community via our website, newsletter, and the One-Call Now system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kevin K. Kendall".

Kevin K. Kendall  
Superintendent of Schools