March 4, 2020

Dear Lake Shore Parent(s) / Guardian(s):

The new Coronavirus called 2019 Novel (new) Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) was first found in Wuhan Hubei Province, China. This virus had not been found in humans before. This Coronavirus can lead to fever, cough and trouble breathing or shortness of breath. There are thousands of diagnosed cases in China and new cases being diagnosed in a number of countries including the United States.

While Lake Shore Central School District does not have a confirmed case of (2019-nCoV) in our schools, we are aware of concerns in the community about the spread of this relatively new virus.

The district is closely monitoring this fluid situation and following guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), Erie County Department of Health, and the New York State Education Department.

The district has protocols in place and has been taking steps, such as cleaning and disinfecting throughout the buildings, to minimize the spread of viruses and other illnesses. We have suspended all “self-serve” activities in our cafeterias. Cafeteria staff are serving students to reduce potential cross-contamination. Lunch options will remain unchanged.

What do we know? Since this virus is very new, health authorities continue to carefully watch how this virus spreads. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is working hard to learn as much as possible about this new virus, so that we can better understand how it spreads and causes illness. The CDC considers this virus to be a serious public health concern. Based on current information the CDC recommends avoiding travel to China and several other countries. Updated travel information related to 2019-nCoV can be found at: https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/warning/novel-coronavirus-china

How Does 2019 Novel (New) Coronavirus Spread? Health experts believe the virus probably spreads from animals to humans and from person to person. The CDC is currently updating their information on the public website on a regular basis.

Prevention: There are currently no vaccines available to protect against this virus. The New York State Department of Health (DOH) recommends the following ways to minimize the spread of all respiratory viruses, including 2019-nCoV:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing. If you use a tissue, throw it in the trash.
- Routinely clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
Symptoms: Information to date suggests that 2019-nCoV causes mild-to-moderate illness and symptoms like the flu, including fever, cough, and difficulty breathing.

Are visitors from China being screened? Yes, as of February 2nd new screening protocols are conducted for individuals entering the U.S. from China at designated airports. PreK-12 schools may have students who attend school and have traveled to various areas in Asia, including China. Schools may only exclude a student if a local health department informs the school that a student must comply with a quarantine order or the student is symptomatic of a communicable or infectious disease pursuant to Education Law §906.

Important Health Information for Those Who Have Recently Traveled to Wuhan, Hubei Province, China and Experience Symptoms: If you recently traveled to Wuhan, China and other identified countries and feel sick with fever, cough or trouble breathing; OR you develop symptoms within 14 days of traveling there, you should:

• Seek medical care right away. Call ahead and tell them about your travel and symptoms.
• Avoid contact with others.
• Stay home, except for seeking medical care.
• Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing.
• Wash hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds If soap and water are not available use an alcohol based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
• Contact your local health department.

This is an emerging, rapidly changing situation. For questions or concerns about travel and symptoms please contact your local department of health or the NYS DOH Novel Coronavirus hotline at 1-888-364-3065.

For additional information about the Coronavirus, please consider visiting the following websites:

CDC's dedicated 2019 nCoV website at https://www.cdc.gov/nCoV


NYSDOH directory of local health departments https://www.health.ny.gov/contact/contact_information/

New York State Center for School Health website at www.schoolhealthny.com


Sincerely,

Charles A. Galluzzo, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools