March 8, 2020

Dear Families and Staff,

I am writing to you to provide an update on the school district’s measure in response to the 2019 novel coronavirus, COVID-19. Please be assured that the district is actively monitoring all COVID-19 updates and is following guidance provided by the U.S. Center for Disease Control, the NYS Department of Health, the Onondaga County Department of Health, and the NYS Education Department.

This is an emerging, rapidly evolving situation and the CDC, the Department of Health, and the State Education Department will provide updated information as it becomes available, in addition to updated guidance. Last week I attended a county-level meeting hosted by County Executive Ryan McMahon and the County Health Department. This week our medical director and school nurses will attend an information session with the Onondaga County Department of Health. A similar forum for school superintendents is scheduled for this week, also.

Please know that Jamesville-DeWitt takes the health and safety of our students and staff very seriously. If the district becomes aware that a student or staff member is diagnosed with COVID-19, it will immediately notify families and staff.

The district currently has extensive cleaning measures in place to combat the spread of cold and flu-like viruses. These measures have been quite effective in preventing the spread of illness outbreaks in our buildings and on our buses. We will continue to review and follow these procedures.

As we are still in the midst of the cold and flu season, it is important that we continue to follow recommendations to minimize the spread of all respiratory viruses. Please make sure you share the following reminders from the NYS Department of Health with your children and family members:

- 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 when coughing or sneezing. If you use a tissue, throw it in the trash,
- Routinely clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

More information can be found at the Center for Disease Control website, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/summary.html

Additional information about the district’s response and additional guidance about COVID-19 can be found on our district website. We will continue to monitor the situation and will take every precaution to maintain a healthy school environment.

Sincerely,

Peter C. Smith