

ONEIDA NATION SCHOOL SYSTEM

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To members of On^yote?a.k^ Tsi? Thuwatilehunyanitha – (Where we teach them) Our School Learning Family,

The Oneida Nation School Board in collaboration with Administration and guided by the Oneida Nation declaration of a State of Public Health Emergency has determined to prevent, suppress and control the spread of the disease COVID-19 or Coronavirus; the schools will close after classes on Monday, March 16, 2020 and will remain closed until April 6, 2020. As of today, no cases have been identified. However, our commitment to the health and wellness of our Learning Family guides our decision to close at this time as a deliberate act of prevention.

1. All students will leave school Monday with the necessary instructional material and personal belongings.
2. Students will be encouraged to use these closure days as regular school time.
3. Teachers will report to work on Tuesday to develop their schedules and remote access.
4. Administration will report to work and be available for questions and concerns and continuous planning and assessment.
5. Support staff will report to work to participate in the assessment of how we will coordinate necessary on-site duties and remote duties.

The Oneida Nation School system (ONSS) continues to closely monitor the reports concerning the COVID- 19 outbreak from Center for Disease Control (CDC), Bureau of Indian Education as well as working daily with our local health officials from the Oneida Health Center.

The Oneida Nation School system has been reviewing a remote instructional system for some time and are ready to implement this type of instruction. The students will be afforded continuous instruction by integrating online as well as learning packets provided by our instructors. The teachers of our School system will have designated times to remotely accessed by parents and students for technical support for their assignments.

The duration of the shutdown has not yet been determined, however it will be at least through April 6, 2020.

The Oneida Nation's emergency order parallels the actions taken by the State of Wisconsin.

Our students and teachers are one of our most valuable resources and we are driven to protect them in the best manner possible. While our schools are always cleaned and disinfected, we support the theory that if we diminish person to person contact, we are helping to diminish and slow down the spread of this disease.

We are working to finalize our plan for the School Food program to be available, the implementation details will be announced to parents and students in a separate communication and posted on our social media sites by end of work on Monday.

Teachers will continue to be compensated in accordance with their contracts, other employees will also continue to be compensated as we wait to receive information from the Oneida Nation Human Resources on the emergency compensation plans.

The decision to close was carefully reviewed, we are mindful of parents who may not have child-care, so we encourage our community to employ their strong spirit of support to step up and assist any families challenged with child-care.

This is a time of continued structured education of our students that must be taken seriously, and we encourage

parents to maintain a structured learning environment and schedule in their homes. Closing of our school is an action we expect to slow the spread of the disease in our community. We strongly **discourage** allowing students to be out in malls, movies, and recreational activities, this is not a vacation.

We are providing our parents and students with a package that outlines our remote learning plans. We will continue to assess our student learning needs for electronic access, learning packets to support their participation in remote learning. We also encourage families exploring many online scholastic programs that are also available free to support their student learning efforts.

As we continue to review and assess the impact of the school closing we appreciate feedback from our community. As a school system we have conducted our safety drills of preparedness and now we are called upon to act during this state of emergency in the best interest of our student, families, staff and the community. In the coming days we also recognize the best laid plans may overlook some details and our commitment is to listen, be responsive and adjust when possible to support our families in this time of challenge.

We appreciate the support and encourage from our Oneida Community. We will continue to keep our community informed through our internal communication channels and through the Oneida Nation website and social media. Our parents have been advised that we are working through this closure and will receive additional information Monday, March 16, 2020.

The Oneida Nation Schools