



PLEASANT VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

District Administration Office
2233 Route 115, Suite 100
Brodheadsville, Pennsylvania 18322
Telephone: (570) 402-1000 / Fax: (570) 992-7275
www.pvbears.org



CHARLENE M. BRENNAN

Acting Superintendent of Schools

JOHN T. BURRUS

Director of Human Resources

JOSHUA J. ZIATYK

Assistant to the Superintendent

SUSAN H. FAMULARO

Business Manager

Dear Parent/Guardian/Staff Member:

The Pleasant Valley School District is committed to the health and safety of our students, faculty and staff. In an effort to communicate with you about the Coronavirus Disease-2019 (COVID-19) and its possible impact on the school community, we want to explain the District's current actions, reinforce preventive safety measures, and inform you of temporary measures the District will be implementing to keep our school community safe.

(If you are viewing this letter electronically, please click on words in blue to take you directly to the resources/websites referenced.)

As of today, March 7, 2020, there are no diagnosed cases of COVID-19 within the Pleasant Valley School District.

Yet, we are closely monitoring the COVID-19 situation and are relying on guidance from the [United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#), the [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#), and the [Pennsylvania Department of Health](#) for updates and recommendations.

Please know that the District has processes and procedures in place to respond to, manage, and stop the spread of infectious illnesses that could impact our students, staff and schools, including COVID-19. We have a direct point-of-contact with the Pennsylvania Department of Health, who helps guide our efforts whenever we have a health issue or concern. We also receive updates and guidelines directly from the Department of Health and CDC and coordinate with health experts on appropriate measures for containing the spread of communicable and/or infectious diseases.

In all of our district buildings, our custodians have already implemented the CDC's recommendation for flu season and pandemic flu situations. This involves the daily cleaning of frequently touched surfaces and objects, including but not limited to desks and tabletops, doorknobs and push bars, light switches, water fountains, and all bathroom surfaces. Our custodians use a hospital-grade disinfectant that is able to kill human Corona-class viruses. Further, posters from the CDC on methods to decrease the spread of viruses, including the seasonal flu and COVID-19, will be displayed in all school district buildings.

If, outside of school hours, any student or staff member is suspected of being exposed to COVID-19 or has symptoms of this illness, there is a reporting system in place through which the Department of Health and local doctors will inform our school nurses so that the District may respond swiftly and appropriately.

Our goal is to continue to keep our school community a healthy environment for everyone. To that end, we will continue to follow all updates and recommendations provided by local, state, and federal health officials, but we need your help.

Symptoms and General Preventive Measures

The symptoms of COVID-19 are similar to other flu symptoms and include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. I have included the following links that are helpful in providing your family with information about this illness and how to keep your family healthy:

- [CDC COVID-19 Coronavirus Disease](#)
- [CDC Health Fact Sheet on the Coronavirus](#)
- [CDC Take Action to Help Slow the Spread of Flu and Illness](#)
- [CDC Guide on When to Seek Emergency Care](#)
- [National Association of School Psychologist - Talking to Children about COVID-19](#)
- [Pennsylvania Department of Health Coronavirus Information](#)
- [Pennsylvania Department of Health: Coronavirus Information for K-12 Schools](#)

As members of our school community, we ask for your assistance and cooperation in following guidance and recommendations from the CDC and the Department of Health regarding good hygiene and the prevention of illness. Of chief importance, please follow the following everyday preventive measures:

- Stay home when you are sick.
- All children and staff members with respiratory symptoms and fever (>100.0F / >37.8C) should remain home (from school and other activities) until they have no fever for 24 hours, without fever medication.
- Wash your hands frequently, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. Scrub your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Need a timer? Hum the “Happy Birthday” song from beginning to end twice. If soap and water are not available/convenient, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer in its place that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands, and avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- When leaving the restroom, use a paper towel or tissue when reaching for the door handle, and dispose of it immediately.
- When you sneeze or cough, cover your mouth AND nose with a tissue. Dispose of the tissue immediately, and wash your hands or use hand sanitizer with >60% alcohol content. If a tissue is not available, sneeze or cough into a flexed elbow.
- When talking with people, keep at least one arms distance between you and other people, especially if they are sneezing and/or coughing.
- Eat smart to maintain your strength.
- Get adequate sleep.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Avoid handshakes or hugs. Consider a head nod or elbow bump (not a fist bump), instead.

The CDC also recommends that you get this year’s flu vaccine, if you have not done so already.

Please be aware that the CDC does NOT recommend that people, who are well, wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19. Facemasks should be used only by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 and the healthcare professionals or people who care for them.

IMPORTANT District-Specific Preventive Measures

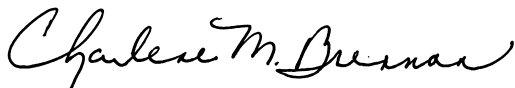
Although, as of today, March 7, 2020, the Pleasant Valley School District has no reported cases of COVID-19 or exposures to the virus, we want to be proactive and are enacting the following measures in an effort to keep our students and staff healthy:

1. Parents, students, staff members, or members of their households, who will be traveling internationally or to areas of the United States that have experienced an outbreak of COVID-19, should call their building administrator for a discussion regarding the trip.
2. We seriously encourage all parents, students and staff members to adhere to the CDC travel advisory recommendations. That said, any student or staff member who has traveled to, or who has had a household member travel to, an international or domestic area experiencing an outbreak of COVID-19, or who has been exposed to a person with COVID-19, **MUST** notify their school principal or District supervisor, immediately, and before returning to school.
3. We further ask that any student or staff member who has traveled to, or who has had a household member travel to, an international or domestic area experiencing an outbreak of COVID-19, or who has been exposed to a person with COVID-19, **not attend school for 14 calendar days after their return home or exposure**. At this time, the 14 days will be excused absences, and staff will be paid; however, the District will monitor this situation and make changes, as necessary. Students who remain out of the District for 14 calendar days will have alternative instruction available to them through Google Classroom and similar methods.
4. Individuals who have been in China or who have been exposed to someone sick with COVID-19 in the past 14 days, will face some limitations on movement and activity. [State or federal health officials will guide these restrictions](#), and we will work collaboratively with the officials to support any restrictions related to school and work.
5. We are currently reviewing and updating our procedures for educational field trips and will communicate any and all changes or updates to you.

By working together as a community and following the above recommendations and preventive measures, we can minimize any impact of COVID-19 in Pleasant Valley. I thank you for your attention to this important issue and your assistance in implementing these practices and procedures.

We will continue to update you as more information becomes available to us. As always, if you have any concerns regarding your or your child's health, we recommend that you consult with your primary care physician.

Sincerely,



Dr. Charlene M. Brennan, D. Ed.
Acting Superintendent
Pleasant Valley School District