Dear Parents/Guardians:

On March 10, 2020, New Hartford Central School District administration learned of the potential contact of one of its E.R. Hughes Elementary staff members with COVID-19 - Coronavirus. As a precautionary measure and concern for our students, the staff member, and their colleagues, the District consulted with the Oneida County Health Department (OCHD). According to OCHD, our staff member faces “No restrictions because [the staff member] was too far removed from the actual contact.” There remain no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Oneida County.

Oneida County Health officials state that the District has implemented the proper steps to mitigate the spread of infectious disease. At the outset of concerns about the Coronavirus, the District continued to follow strict hygiene and cleaning guidelines. We have and will continue to stress proper hygiene to everyone, and we will continue to clean and disinfect classrooms, common areas, high frequency touch points, and buses.

The District is following directives from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the New York State Education Department, the New York State Department of Health, and the Oneida County Health Department. If health officials recommend additional guidelines, we will revise our strategies to best ensure the well-being of our school community.

As local, state, and federal health officials consistently stress, by taking the proper preventative steps, we can all protect ourselves from the spread of germs and viruses. Frequent and thorough hand washing is crucial. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands, as well as avoiding contact with sick people. People should stay home and away from crowds if they aren’t feeling well. We should always cover our mouths when sneezing and coughing and disinfect surfaces and objects often. Protecting ourselves from other viruses such as the seasonal flu is another protective measure we can all take to stay healthy.

The District will investigate and respond to all concerns our school community may have in regards to this recent matter and District safeguards. Please visit our school’s home webpage for helpful information regarding COVID-19 including “School (PreK-12) Guidance: COVID-19.” Thank you for your continuing cooperation, patience, and understanding as we work together to keep our community healthy and safe.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Robert J. Nole
Superintendent of Schools