**Peru Central School District**

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Superintendent of Schools School Business Administrator

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**Coronavirus Update**

Dear School Community,

There has been a great deal of information shared on Social Media concerning the Coronavirus 19. The greatest thing we need to do as a district is to understand the symptoms, minimize the opportunity to the best of our ability of introducing the virus into our community. Please, always remember, we take the safety of our students and staff as our number one priority and we will always keep that in the forefront of all decisions that are being made.

Exposure can occur from any person-to-person contact and is not limited to a particular race or ethnicity.

The district’s first responsibility is to safeguard the health and well-being of its students, staff and community. The district is continually monitoring the situation, and following the guidance of our local, state and federal health departments. The nature of the situation is fluid, and while no additional action is recommended at this time, we will continue to monitor this issue and follow any new guidance that may develop.

Here is the best practice we can take in educating our students and our staff: (This comes from the NY SDOH)

Use appropriate practices to minimize exposure to respiratory diseases, such as the flu and COVID-19, which include:

* Wash hands frequently with soap and water for 20 seconds.
* If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based sanitizer (60% or greater alcohol concentration) by thoroughly wetting all surfaces of the hand.
* Hand washing with soap and water should be done before

eating; after sneezing, coughing or nose blowing; after

using the restroom; before handling food; after touching

or cleaning surfaces that may be contaminated; and after

using shared equipment like computer keyboards/mice.

* Incorporate frequent breaks to allow for handwashing at these times.
* Ensure hand-washing policies and procedures are in place

(e.g., post signs, communicate to faculty/staff/students).

* Have tissues available in classrooms.
* Disinfect shared supplies (e.g., toys, musical instruments,

classroom supplies)

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* No special personal protective equipment is recommended for

the general public at this time, such as masks, coveralls, etc.

At this time, our best advice is to practice responsible prevention practices that limit the spread of the virus. **If students or staff are ill, stay home and if you have symptoms of the virus, consult your primary medical caregiver**. More information will be shared with parents and staff as this evolves. We are continually working with our professionals in the field to stay abreast of the current situation to provide the best information we can to our school community. We have also provided links to websites with additional information on our website.

Lastly, we are preparing our staff to be able to provide instruction to your children **IF THE GOVERNMENT DECIDES TO CLOSE SCHOOLS FOR A PERIOD OF TIME (1 to 14 days have been discussed in the media and has occurred in a Westchester School District). We have no additional information at this time but will keep the community abreast of the situation if we learn anything through my office.**

We are taking the precautionary steps in planning to have the ability to deliver instruction through a variety of digital means to continue your child(ren)’s education if we were forced to close. As a district, we are working collaboratively to ensure this could occur. We will send out more information shortly on those instructional opportunities for our students and may test it through an exercise in the coming days.

Thank you,

Tom Palmer

Superintendent of Schools