



Emergency Management Agency County of Schuylkill

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John M. Matz
Coordinator



Commissioners
George F. Halcovage, Jr – Chairman
Frank J. Staudenmeier
Gary J. Hess

March 12, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Schuylkill County Response to Coronavirus COVID-19

The Schuylkill County Emergency Management Agency in consultation with the Pennsylvania Department of Health is actively working to plan and respond to the potential impact of Coronavirus COVID-19 with all County School Districts: Blue Mountain, Mahanoy Area, Minersville Area, North Schuylkill, Pine Grove Area, Pottsville Area, Saint Clair Area, Schuylkill Haven Area, Shenandoah Valley, Tamaqua Area, Tri-Valley, Williams Valley, and the Schuylkill Intermediate Unit and Schuylkill Technology Center. County Emergency Management and Superintendents continue to meet regularly to share information regarding these potential impacts.

State and local health officials continue to urge residents to practice preventative steps such as:

- Frequent hand-washing with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds
- Avoiding close contact (within six feet) with people who are sick
- Avoiding touching one's eyes, nose, and mouth
- Staying home when sick
- Covering one's coughs or sneezes with a tissue and throwing the tissues in the trash
- Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces with household cleaning sprays and wipes

Much remains unknown about COVID-19, including fatality rates. Early indications are that children are at a much lower risk of severe illness from COVID-19, and as with influenza, the elderly and those with immunosuppressive conditions are at a higher risk of severe illness.

The County and all School Districts will continue to work collaboratively, proceeding with an abundance of caution, guided by the most current accurate information. We urge all residents of Schuylkill County to remain aware of the situation, follow recommendations for limiting potential infection and exercise good common sense. We want people in Schuylkill County to be aware of the situation but not panic.

Please continue to refer to trusted, credible sources of accurate and up-to-date information, including:

PA Department of Health 1-877-PA-HEALTH (1-877-724-3258)

PA DOH <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx>

CDC <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Sincerely,



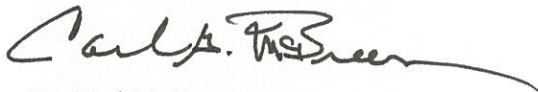
Dr. David Helsel
Blue Mountain School District



Dr. Joie Green
Mahanoy Area School District



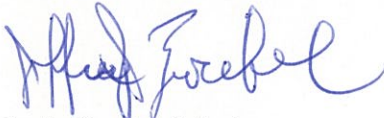
Dr. Robert Ackell
North Schuylkill School District



Dr. Carl McBreen
Minersville Area School District



Mr. Heath Renninger
Pine Grove Area School District



Dr. Jeffrey Zwiebel
Pottsville Area School District



Dr. Sarah Yoder
Saint Clair Area School District



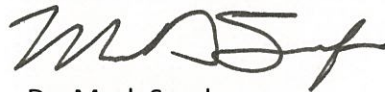
Dr. Shawn Fitzpatrick
Schuylkill Haven Area School District



Mr. Brian Waite
Shenandoah Valley School District



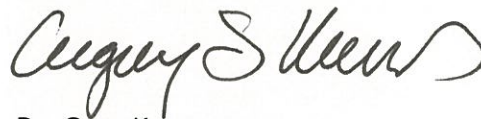
Mr. Raymond Kinder
Tamaqua Area School District



Dr. Mark Snyder
Tri-Valley School District



Dr. Diane Best
Williams Valley School District



Dr. Greg Koons
Schuylkill Intermediate Unit & Technology
Centers



Mr. John M. Matz
Schuylkill County EMA

SCHUYLKILL COUNTY PANDEMIC ACTION PLAN

A UNIFIED APPROACH BETWEEN SCHUYLKILL COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND INTERMEDIATE UNIT, AND SCHUYLKILL COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

MONITORING

- **School in session**
- The County and schools are monitoring activities (locally and regionally)
- Provide preventative education campaign
- Initiate Pandemic Preparedness Plan
- Implement Policy on Emergency Preparedness Plan
- Consider postponing student and staff travel in areas that are a focus of infection; reschedule as possible
- Consider denying district access to groups that have traveled from areas that are a focus of infection

LIMITING

- **School in session**
- Consider postponing outside groups' events in our buildings; reschedule as possible
- Consider limiting audience attendance at school activities
- Consider suspending student and community volunteers
- Consider denying district access to groups that have traveled from areas that are a focus of infection

POSTPONING

- **School in session**
- Consider postponing all athletic and extracurricular activities; reschedule as possible
- Consider postponing all district-sponsored events; reschedule as possible
- Consider postponing all travel and field trips; reschedule as possible
- Consider suspending Community Based Instruction

CLOSING

- **School buildings closed**

FOLLOW GUIDELINES FROM CDC AND PA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

- **MANDATORY 14-DAY QUARANTINE FOR ANY STAFF MEMBER OR STUDENT WITH A CONFIRMED CASE OR LIVING WITH SOMEONE WITH A CONFIRMED CASE OF COVID-19**
- **MANDATORY 14-DAY SELF-QUARANTINE AND MONITORING FOR STAFF MEMBERS OR STUDENTS THAT TRAVELED TO/FROM OR WHO HAVE SOMEONE LIVING WITH THEM WHO HAS TRAVELED TO/FROM CDC DESIGNATED LEVEL 3 AREAS**