

Dear Members:

As neighboring school districts and other employers begin to contemplate emergency plans in anticipation of a Coronavirus emergency, I want you to know that the upper administration and I have been trying to communicate regarding this for over a week and will continue to do so if we need to provide critical and timely information. Things are changing minute to minute and we are ONLY anticipating the possibility of a confirmed case. Secondly, NYSUT is convening a statewide COVID-19 workgroup to examine the situation and develop recommendations, guidance, and resources. In the meantime, in order to educate and not alarm here are some things to know:

- If there is a COVID-19 case related to our school, the school will be contacted by the state or county Health Department.
- The district is conducting additional cleaning of buses and buildings and is using disinfectants on hard surfaces at all schools.
- The BEES E-Board has been, and plans to be included in any discussions and decisions made regarding expectations of both teachers and students if the agency or any buildings need to close.
- Unless mandated by state law or executive authority, any temporary actions undertaken by the district that impact contractual working conditions must be negotiated, be specific, may require an memorandum of agreement, and shall NOT constitute a precedent in any future situation.
- The Governor did declare a state of emergency on Saturday 3/7 and yes, there was a law passed last year in regard to the 180 day instructional requirement. Chapter 605 allows SED to waive the 180 days of session requirement on days for which school districts were required to close due to a properly executed local or state-level State of Emergency. The district **should** not have to make up those days. This and many other issues are all a part of what we assume the NYSUT workgroups will be discussing.
- For more resources for educators check out this American Federation of Teachers link <https://www.aft.org/coronavirus/educators> and <http://nysut.org/coronavirus>
- The Center for Disease Control (CDC) has said that common- sense practices such as good hand washing, wiping down surfaces, and being mindful of touching one's face frequently are our best collective defense against widespread communication of COVID-19.
- Lastly, stay home if you are feeling sick and keep your children home when they are sick. Especially if they have a fever, cough, or difficulty breathing.

Thank you for all you do and if you have any questions please feel free to contact us at the union office, or by email and we will try to assist you as best as we can. 631-475-4704. www.beesbeacon.org

In Solidarity,
Jim Beck and the BEES Executive Board