



Karen Homiek
Superintendent
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Dear Ocean County Vocational Technical School Families,

With the concerns of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) continuing to spread, the Ocean County Vocational Technical School (OCVTS) district wants to assure you that we have been monitoring the situation and following the guidance provided by the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH), the Ocean County Health Department and the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) considers COVID-19 a serious public health concern while the NJDOH has maintained the risk of contacting the virus remains low. We are staying abreast of any changes that may occur (as the information seems to change hourly) and are planning and preparing.

NJDOH has published guidance for childcare facilities and K-12 schools regarding the impact that the current outbreak of 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) might have on their communities. That guidance is available on the NJDOH's COVID-19 Information for Schools and Businesses webpage and was disseminated by the NJDOE via special Broadcast. The guidance emphasizes that the most important thing for schools to do now is plan and prepare in an event that schools are asked to close proactively or reactively. The OCVTS district has been planning and preparing if such a recommendation for closing is instituted.

In the event that that school closures are endorsed by the NJDOH, the NJDOE has authorized home instruction to provide instructional services to enrolled students. Any day in which students impacted by a public health-related closure have access to home instruction services will count as a day towards its compliance with the 180-day requirement in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9. In advance of a NJDOH school closure, OCVTS may restrict field trips, assemblies and visitor access to our buildings for the health and safety of our students and staff.

We are currently reviewing the results of the technology surveys that were taken by our students last week and will continue planning and preparing if such a closure is suggested by the NJ Department of Health, Ocean County Health Department and the New Jersey Department of Education. Instructors are planning instruction should a closure be necessary so the continuation of your child's education will be maintained. Please be assured that we are taking serious steps to provide a safe learning environment for your child. Heightened cleaning procedures are in effect in all of our facilities.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to your building principals if you have questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Karen Homiek, OCVTS Superintendent