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## Picente Declares State of Emergency; Closes All Public Schools

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**ONEIDA COUNTY  
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

**ANTHONY J. PICENTE, JR.**  
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For Immediate Release

March 13, 2020

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## Picente Declares State of Emergency; Closes All Public Schools

Oneida County Executive Anthony J. Picente Jr. announced today that he is declaring a State of Emergency in Oneida County, and in consultation with all area superintendents, is closing all public schools, including Oneida-Madison BOCES, due to the threat from the COVID-19 pandemic.

"While there is still currently no confirmed case of COVID-19 in Oneida County, we're taking every measure available to ensure the health and safety of our residents," Picente said. "Since the onset of this threat, we have partnered with federal, state and local officials to prepare, evaluate and respond to this continually evolving public health emergency. We believe this strong action is necessary and will enhance our ability effectively fight this unprecedented situation."

All public schools within the county will be closed to students effective March 16, 2020. Classes will resume on April 14, 2020. The state of emergency will remain in effect until rescinded by a subsequent order.

The State of Emergency gives the County Executive broad powers including but not limited to:

- Establishing a curfew and the prohibiting and control pedestrian and vehicular traffic, except essential emergency vehicles and personnel.
- Designating specific zones within which the occupancy and use of buildings and the ingress and egress of vehicles and persons may be prohibited or regulated.



## Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES

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# News

*For*

*Immediate Release*

## **A March 13, 2020, Status Update from the OHM BOCES Regarding the Coronavirus and School Closings**

**March 13, 2020 (New Hartford, N.Y.)** – In communication with the New York State Department of Health, and coordination with the Oneida County Executive Anthony J. Picente, the Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES District Superintendent Dr. Patricia N. Kilburn and the superintendents of the OHM BOCES component districts made a collective decision to cancel school and extracurricular activities beginning Monday, March 16, 2020, with schools re-opening on Tuesday, April 14, 2020, to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus for students, staff and the communities at large.

The total closures affect OHM BOCES and 11 of its component school districts: Clinton, Holland Patent, New Hartford, New York Mills, Oriskany, Remsen, Sauquoit Valley, Utica, Waterville, Westmoreland and Whitesboro. The Brookfield Central School District, within Madison County, is awaiting a determination to close at this time.

This closure will result in the loss of 15 days in addition to the scheduled spring break. During this closure, school personnel will continue to coordinate efforts in the best interest of our students. Further communications regarding services will be shared with families as appropriate.

The New York State Education Department continues to work with the Governor's Office, the NYS Department of Health and the U.S. Department of Education to provide guidance to our schools around issues such as instruction and testing.

As this situation evolves, we will continue to work with the New York State Department of Health and the County Executive's Office and will provide updates as they become available.

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