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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Otsego County Department of Health has recommended all public schools K-12 close for a period of two weeks. This closure is to begin Monday March 16, 2020. The situation will be assessed on an ongoing basis and further guidance will be put out should the closures need to continue past the initial two weeks. Closing schools is a public health action that is proven to reduce spread of disease during a pandemic.

Other measures the public can take to prevent spread of illness in the community are

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

For more guidance on how to reduce the spread of illness in communities see the CDC webpage at

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