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Press Release For Immediate Release 3/14/2020

Like everyone in the region, we have been following the developments regarding the spread of COVID-19 very closely over the past several weeks. Our partners from the Public Health Departments of Jefferson and Lewis Counties have shared with us the most recent guidance and best practices regarding social distancing and other mitigation strategies that help our community to flatten the curve with regard to the spread of COVID-19. It is important that we all do everything we can to slow and prevent the spread of this contagious virus. After extensive discussion between the Superintendents of all of the Districts of the Jefferson-Lewis-Hamilton-Herkimer-Oneida BOCES region, Jefferson and Lewis County Administrators, and Jefferson and Lewis County Public Health Department leadership, a consensus was reached regarding the appropriate course of action for our schools in the coming days and weeks.

The action taken today is not something that has been taken lightly. We understand the potential hardship this may create for students and families in the region. However, the health and safety of our students, staff and community remains our first priority.

Collectively, the Superintendents of the Jefferson-Lewis-Hamilton-Herkimer-Oneida BOCES region, and the Public Health Department leaders of Jefferson and Lewis Counties, have made the following determinations:

Student attendance in all Lewis County schools, Jefferson County schools, Town of Webb Union Free School District, and Adirondack Central School District will cease, effective Monday, March 16 through Friday, April 17, 2020. School staff should still report on Monday, March 16th.

Recognizing that students, families, and communities depend upon schools in so many ways, we will ensure that essential school business and support functions will remain in place throughout this closure period in order to provide critical health services, food distribution mechanisms, and facility maintenance.

Further specific guidance and information will be provided to each school district community by the Superintendent of that district in the coming days.

To reiterate, **Student attendance in all schools in Jefferson and Lewis Counties, and at Town of Webb Union Free School District and Adirondack Central School District will cease effective Monday, March 16, and will continue through Friday, April 17, 2020. School staff should, however, still report to schools on Monday March 16.**

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