



"Every student will excel, both personally and for the benefit of humanity."

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MEMORANDUM

To: All Staff
From: Shawn K. Wightman, Ed.D.
Date: March 12, 2020
Re: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Update

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) has now been declared a "Global Pandemic" by the World Health Organization. Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Dr. Joneigh S. Khaldun, Chief Medical Executive and Chief Deputy Director of Health, and Dr. Annette Mercatante, Medical Health Officer of St. Clair County, responded Wednesday recommending communities, businesses, and schools cancel large group and public gatherings. They are NOT recommending that schools close at this time.

Beginning Monday, March 16, 2020, and continuing through Monday, April 13, 2020, St. Clair County school districts and RESA will do the following to help mitigate the spread of the virus:

- All events open to the public will be postponed or canceled. This includes plays, musicals, concerts, PTA meetings, Kindergarten Information Night, community recreation/education programs, rental of school buildings or classrooms, and any and all programs outside normal operating hours of the school day.
- All international and domestic travel to group events are canceled.
- All spring athletic practices and competitions are canceled.
- All events currently scheduled by outside organizations at our local schools will be canceled.
- We will continue procedures already implemented that include increased cleaning and disinfecting of all school buildings, buses, and common surfaces.
- Latchkey will remain open with their regularly scheduled hours.

The superintendents of RESA and the seven St. Clair County school districts met this morning to plan implementation to follow these recommendations. What we know about the Coronavirus is that it is highly contagious and easily passed along by close person-to-person contact. Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services' (MDHHS) recommendation is designed to prevent and mitigate exposure to the virus.

As a district, there are things you can do to help slow the spread of this virus:

- The Health Department recommends that families or students who return from China, South Korea, Iran, Japan, Hong Kong, Italy and any other country identified by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) not be allowed to attend school until 14 days after they have entered the United States and have no symptoms of the virus.
- Personal hygiene is extremely important, especially thorough washing of hands with soap and warm water for 20 seconds and using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Please eliminate handshakes and/or high fives, etc., with students and other staff.
- Stay home if you are sick, and advise others to do the same.
- Always cover coughs or sneezes with a tissue or sleeve. Avoid close contact with people who are sick. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

We are aware that universities across Michigan have canceled face-to-face classes. We are preparing for the potential of total school closure and are considering alternate learning opportunities for all of our students in that event. We will continue to rely on the guidance of the Governor and state/local health officials to make decisions about closing schools.