



## McBain Rural Agricultural School

107 East Maple Street

McBain, MI 49657

March 12, 2020

McBain Rambler Family,

In response to the Coronavirus Pandemic, the McBain Rural Agricultural School District is working closely with the Health Department, State Officials and other resources to assist us as we navigate these uncharted waters. We are attempting to take the approach to not panic, but prepare. Please see the memorandum that we have provided from Governor Whitmer. In this memorandum you will see recommendations to mitigate the spread of the Coronavirus and also suggestions to schools on how to proceed. We will utilize this and other information to help keep our school and community as safe as possible. Please know that we may postpone or cancel some events in the future that would involve the gathering of 100 people or more. Any changes to scheduled events will be communicated by me or one of our other administrators.

The Michigan High School Athletic Association has just released guidance on post season athletic events. "Each competing school will be allowed an ENTRY LIST of no more than fifty (50) individuals that will only include parents/legal guardians and essential administrators. This list will be generated and coordinated by each competing school's athletic director. No admission will be charged for this list of 50 individuals. Doors will open to spectators no earlier than 30 minutes prior to game time, and the facility needs to be cleared of these spectators immediately following the end of the game and presentation of awards. Encourage social distancing among those spectators." This guidance will affect our boys' basketball district final on Friday and Athletic Director Shaun Mulder is finalizing the list of individuals.

Due to the number of universities cancelling face to face classes and going online, I have received questions about if we were considering doing this. It is difficult for K-12 school districts to operate solely in an online fashion. We have considerations like English Language Learners and Special Needs students, to only name two. We do have the 1:1 capability in terms of our computer devices. However, not all of our families have sufficient access to internet. At this point, we are not being advised to close school. We will continue to operate our district as usual, within the confines of the direction from the State and Health Department.

Please know that we are doing everything we can to provide a safe and healthy educational environment for your child. We ask that you consider the recommendations as provided to help mitigate the spread of the Coronavirus. Our goal is to protect your child and prepare, not panic. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours in Education,

Stephen R. Prissel, Ph.D.



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR



## **MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** March 11, 2020

**TO:** Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents  
Public School Academy Directors  
Nonpublic School Administrators  
Public Health Officers  
Public Library Directors

**FROM:** Dr. Michael F. Rice, Superintendent of Public Instruction,  
Michigan Department of Education

Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, Chief Medical Executive and Chief Deputy for  
Health, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

**SUBJECT:** COVID-19 Updated Guidance

Governor Gretchen Whitmer declared a state of emergency Tuesday evening, March 10, in response to the discovery of the first two presumptive positive cases of COVID-19. The emergency declaration will allow the state to maximize efforts and assist local governments and officials in slowing the spread of the virus.

Late today, the governor announced recommended community mitigation strategies for local school districts and childcare facilities. In doing so, she said: "We are encouraging schools, universities, businesses, and other organizations to use their best judgment about what steps are most appropriate to keep people safe and to slow the spread of the disease."

We share these recommended community mitigation strategies for schools and childcare facilities below:

1. Educate students and the community about COVID-19 and preventative hygiene practices (see list on the next page).
2. Encourage staff and students to stay home when sick.
3. Report influenza-like activity, absenteeism, and potential school dismissals to public health officials.
4. Separate sick students and staff from others until they can go home. When feasible, identify a "sick room" through which others do not regularly pass.
5. Communicate and reinforce best practices for washing hands and covering coughs and sneezes.
6. Regularly clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces, like doorknobs, keyboards, desks, cell phones, and light switches.

7. Consider having students eat meals in their classrooms as opposed to a cafeteria-like setting, or alter meal schedules for smaller-group gatherings.
8. Limit large gatherings such as assemblies and inter-school interactions (e.g., greater than 100 people in a shared space).
9. Alter schedules for recess and entry/dismissal to reduce the mixing of large numbers of students and staff.
10. Schools with students at risk of severe illness should consider implementing plans for learning at a distance for those students, to the extent feasible.

The state of Michigan has been working with federal and local partners to monitor the situation, develop and expand laboratory testing, educate and raise awareness, and prepare for COVID-19 in Michigan.

On February 28, Governor Whitmer activated the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) to coordinate state-government resources. On March 3, Governor Whitmer announced the creation of four task forces to combat the spread of coronavirus and assess the impact that the virus may have on Michiganders' day-to-day lives. One of those task forces is for education, which has been meeting regularly to monitor and assess the proper guidance for educational institutions.

As you were informed in a memo sent on Friday, Feb. 28, the overall threat to the general public and in the U.S. remains low, but we are approaching this emerging threat to public health with an abundance of caution. As partners, you should have appropriate information on what individuals can do to protect themselves.

### **Use good hygiene practices to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other respiratory diseases.**

- 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.
- Wash your hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and warm water are not available.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

It's not too late to [get your flu shot](#)! While the influenza vaccine does not protect against COVID-19 infection, it can help keep you healthy during the flu season.

### **Review travel advisories before planning travel.**

Always review travel advisories from the federal government when planning personal and business travel. Review [CDC.gov/Travel](https://www.cdc.gov/travel) for destinations with risk of community spread of COVID-19.

### **Share accurate information.**

Always [share accurate information](#) about a virus and its spread. It is important to remember that stigma and discrimination occur when people associate an infectious disease, such as COVID-19, with a population or nationality. COVID-19 does not target people from specific populations, ethnicities or racial background. Suspected discrimination can be [reported](#) to the Michigan Department of Civil Rights.

This is a rapidly evolving situation. For the latest information, please see [Michigan.gov/Coronavirus](https://www.michigan.gov/Coronavirus) or [CDC.gov/Coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/Coronavirus). The CDC has provided [guidance for preventing the spread of COVID-19 in communities](#) including businesses, community- and faith-based organizations, and childcare organizations and schools.

Decisions to exclude a student or staff member, or to close schools and childcare centers altogether, must be made on a case-by-case and location-by-location basis, in coordination with local health departments. These decisions are local in nature and could vary from district to district or school to school.

We will continue to share with you as more information becomes available. Thank you for all you do to keep Michigan schools and communities safe.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance  
Robert Gordon, Director, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services