



Clare Public Schools

201 E. State St.

Clare, MI 48617

www.clare.k12.mi.us

Thursday, March 12, 2020

Dear Students, Parents, Staff and Community Members:

On Wednesday, Governor Whitmer and representatives from the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services announced recommendations for keeping students and staff healthy while addressing the risks associated with the Coronavirus. We have been in close contact with local and state Health Departments, the Michigan Department of Education and Governor Whitmer's office.

At this time, we are in agreement with the current recommendation from state health officials against the closure of our K-12 schools. As we've learned this week, these conditions lend themselves to change very quickly, and we are constantly monitoring the developments should the need arise to make a change in direction.

Our immediate plan for mitigating the spread of COVID-19 in our communities while advancing student learning is based on three factors:

1. Avoiding unnecessary exposure of our staff and students to illness.
2. Working to the best of our ability to ensure the continuity of teaching and learning in Clare, Gladwin and Midland Counties.
3. Protecting the health and well-being of our multigenerational communities, particularly those who are most vulnerable to illness.

With this in mind, we are enacting the following measures related to events and programs scheduled outside of the regular school day beginning immediately:

- All field trips are suspended until further notice.
- Attendance incentives are discontinued for this semester.
- All assemblies and performances in our schools involving participation by the general public in groups numbering more than 100 are suspended until further notice.
- All community meetings, community education programming, rentals and gatherings scheduled to take place within our school facilities will be decided on a case-by-case basis.
- All athletic events will continue in accordance with guidance issued by the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA). Updates will be posted at www.mhsaa.com. Tomorrow's district final game has been suspended until further notice.
- Any after-school activity consisting of a group numbering fewer than 100 people and an extension of the normal learning day (clubs, athletic practices, etc.) will continue as planned.

- Custodial crews at all our districts are dedicating a heightened focus to ensure common areas are disinfected, both in school buildings and on buses.

As we prepare for all possible scenarios, we are asking you to develop a plan for your family in the event that schools were to close for an extended period of time. We would also ask you to carefully consider the necessity of non-essential travel in the coming weeks, as well as the precautionary health- and safety-related inconveniences that are likely to accompany it.

As you probably know by now, Governor Whitmer has declared a *state of emergency*, and we are taking COVID-19 very seriously. We hope that with your help, we can diminish the spread of this virus in our communities. Please follow the recommendations to wash your hands, stay home when you are sick and practice good hygiene. We would like to remind you that our districts utilize the most credible resources possible regarding the virus and recommended actions:

- Center for Disease Control link: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/index.html
- Michigan.gov coronavirus link: www.michigan.gov/coronavirus

The factors surrounding this health challenge are changing rapidly, and rest assured that we will update you as often and as thoroughly as necessary. The safety of our students, staff and communities is our top priority. Get plenty of rest, read and play with your kids, keep your sense of humor. It is important that we are informed by credible sources, good readers, and calm problem solvers. It is unlikely you will get expert advice from social media, and it is important that we relay facts & avoid spreading fear. Pioneers are Leaders, and it's a good time for us all to live that phrase. Even in tough or uncertain times, thank you for making Clare a great place to live and learn. Finally, thank you for your support of CPS and our students & staff.

Sincerely,

Jim Walter, II
Superintendent