



East Lansing
Public Schools

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Information current as of March 12, 2020 at 12:00 p.m.

Dear East Lansing Public Schools staff and families:

We want to provide an update regarding information about the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). As released by Governor Whitmer, there are two presumed positive cases in the State of Michigan. One case is in Oakland County and the other is in Wayne County. The Governor has declared a State of Emergency. The declaration is not intended to cause panic, but it allows the State to release federal funds and deploy resources to minimize the spread of COVID-19.

In addition, some colleges and universities have discontinued face-to-face classes and moved to all online classes, as a precautionary measure. Remote instruction is currently not allowable by the Michigan Department of Education for traditional K-12 schools. In addition, there is a concern that not all students would be able to access the curriculum.

On March 11, superintendents from across the state met with representatives from MSU, LCC and the Ingham County Health Department to discuss the current conditions in our region and in Michigan. ***The current recommendation of the Ingham County Health Department has not changed and they DO NOT recommend the closure of K-12 schools at this time.*** However, health officials ask that districts and families take precautionary measures, as you would with influenza, to minimize the spread of COVID-19:

- Wash your hands with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds
- Refrain from touching your face
- Replace handshakes with elbow bumps
- Coughing or sneezing into a tissue, elbow, or sleeve
- Clean surfaces regularly
- Stay home if you are sick, adults and students alike

[Governor Whitmer](#) sent out additional information the evening of March 11 to offer recommendations for Michigan residents, as well as mitigation strategies from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. The information is available on the [Michigan.gov](https://www.michigan.gov) website.

With this in mind, East Lansing Public Schools will implement the following measures related to events and programs scheduled outside the regular school day effective immediately:

- All field trips are suspended until further notice.
- All assemblies and performances with participation from the general public (including as spectators) in our schools are suspended until further notice.
- All community meetings (e.g. Parent Council, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, Safe Routes to Schools, etc.), facility rentals and gatherings (e.g. concerts, science nights, etc.) scheduled to take place within our school facilities are suspended until further notice.

- All tours of school facilities are suspended until further notice.

The following activities will continue at this point in time:

- After-school activities made up primarily of ELPS students (e.g. clubs, after-school homework support, etc.) will continue.
- All athletic practices and events will continue in accordance with guidance issued by the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA). Updates will be posted at www.mhsaa.com.

If you or your family have traveled to a [level three zone](#), please let us know. We also ask that for the health and wellness of students, staff and your neighbors, please take the precautions recommended by the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) and quarantine yourself and your family for 14 days from the time you left the level three zone.

The response to this situation can vary depending on the family and their personal circumstances. If your child is sick, we encourage you to keep your child home and see your healthcare provider. Symptoms of COVID-19 include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of Breath

For additional information and guidance regarding measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, you can access online resources at the [Ingham County Health Department](#) or the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#).

We will continue to monitor all developments related to COVID-19. These are unprecedented times and this situation remains fluid. As we learn more, we will communicate the additional information to ensure the safety of our students, staff and families.

Thank you for your trust and patience during this time. Please feel free to contact me directly at dori.leyko@elps.us with questions or feedback. If you have questions regarding a specific building activity or event, please contact your building administrator.

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