

School will be closed beginning Friday, March 13 and will remain closed until Sunday, April 5.

With two confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Michigan, residents are being urged by the Governor's office to take all necessary precautions to prepare and keep themselves and their families safe. The State is making preparations to limit the spread and impact of COVID-19.

Reporting of Essential Employees

Unless directed otherwise, **only essential employees will report to work on Monday, March 16.**

Building Access

Due to the accelerating reach of COVID-19, all **buildings will be open to only essential personnel 8-3p.m. on Monday, March 16-April 3**

State Assessments

We have received many questions about state assessments upon return from the closure. Currently, we are awaiting guidance from the State of Michigan on its plans. We will update you with the latest information once it is shared with us.

Medication and Student Belongings Pick-Up

Our buildings will be open on Monday- Friday for medication and personal belongings pick-up. Items picked up should be limited to personal items only. We expect students and families to be respectful of our buildings and classrooms, knowing that limited staff members are in the buildings.

Building Cleaning

Our custodial services will institute a cleaning plan that includes complete disinfection of all surfaces and heavy cleaning. Custodians will also target floor care, power washing, and detail work generally scheduled for summer. *Should direction from the state around workplace attendance change, these plans may be altered.*

Social Distancing and Hygiene Practices

We want to stress the seriousness of this situation. There are things we can do as a community to limit the spread of COVID-19 and help keep those most vulnerable safer. *If you think you are sick or someone you care for is sick, visit the [CDC website](#) for directions on diagnosis and care.* You can also visit the [Michigan Department of Health and Human Services website](#) for details around COVID-19, including information on [Community Mitigation Strategies. Practice social distancing when you can, and review and exercise the prevention methods](#) below and in the linked PDF.

The best prevention for COVID-19, and any other virus, such as the cold or flu, is to:

- Wash your hands often with soap and warm water for 20 seconds. If not available, use hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or upper sleeve when coughing or sneezing.
- Avoid handshakes
- Avoid contact with people who are sick.
- If you are sick, please stay home and avoid contact with others.

Additionally, families and individuals at home can:

- Learn about the signs and symptoms of COVID-19. Symptoms include fever, cough, and difficulty breathing.
- If you have respiratory symptoms, **STAY HOME WHEN YOU ARE SICK**. Call your health care provider's office in advance of your visit.
- Regularly clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces, like doorknobs, keyboards, cell phones, and light switches.
- Communicate and reinforce best practices for washing hands and covering coughs and sneezes.
- Be prepared if there is COVID-19 in your household or a disruption of daily activities in your community. For example, maintain a supply of medications, food, and other essentials in your house. Consider alternative shopping options such as curbside pickups or online deliveries.
- Access services as much as possible online or by phone.

Addressing Childhood Anxiety

While we want to make sure that our families are informed and prepared, we know that this has affected our students in varying ways. Here are some steps you can take at home to address their concerns:

- Correct misinformation for them.
- Focus on what kids can do to keep themselves healthy.
- Manage your own catastrophic thinking.
- Don't dismiss their fears. Acknowledge that fear is healthy, and help them manage it appropriately.
- Preview changes or disruptions that may happen, like school closures.

Resources for families:

[Talking to Children about COVID-19](#) - Parent Resource from NASP

[Corona Virus Resources](#) - ASCA

[Talking to Teens and Tweens About CoronaVirus](#) - NYTimes

[Talking to Kids About The Corona Virus](#) - ChildMind

[Just For Kids: A Comic Exploring The New Coronavirus](#) - NPR

[PBS offers videos and resources](#)

[Helping children cope with stress](#) – World Health Organization

Prevent the spread!

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- Avoid contact with people who are sick.
- If you are sick, please stay home and avoid contact with others.