

Superintendent Communiqué



Midland Public Schools
Inspiring Excellence

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MPS INCLUSION & DIVERSITY VISION STATEMENT

Everyone in our school community is valued, safe, treated with kindness and respect, and works together to make our community and world a better place.

SPECIAL EDITION COMMUNIQUE

February 28, 2020

COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

As I am sure you have been, MPS is closely following the information being released on the spread of COVID-19 (Coronavirus). Midland Public Schools is placing a special emphasis on how this may spread and impact schools. The best resource available for information is the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

CDC link updated on a regular basis: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/index.html>

Link for Michigan updates and coronavirus information: <https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus>

Presently, there is no anti-viral treatment that attacks the coronavirus. It is vital we rely on prevention similar to the H1N1 (swine flu) in 2009. As schools follow guidance from the CDC on specific strategies for schools, we will follow common sense strategies for preventing the spread of communicable diseases. Such as:

- ✓ Practice keeping distance from each other when ill
- ✓ Parents need to keep children who exhibit cold and flu-like symptoms home and see a health professional
- ✓ Encourage children/students to keep hands off mouth and eyes
- ✓ Use anti-bacterial soap and wash hands frequently
- ✓ Review proper hand washing techniques
- ✓ Discouraging sharing of food and beverages
- ✓ MPS has and will continue to increase our level of cleaning in schools and use products that are proven effective
- ✓ MPS will be vigilant in monitoring illness in our schools
- ✓ Currently there are no recommendations of closing schools from federal, state or local levels, but we will always keep this as an option if our State or local area sees confirmed cases

MPS monitors student daily absence rates for a variety of reasons. One reason is to be proactive if we see increased rates of illness. MPS has not seen any increased absence rates at this time. All of our schools have maintained attendance rates at 90% or higher (which is normal for February). Today (Friday, February 28) we have a very good district attendance rate of 94%.

We promise to keep communicating with you on this important issue!

Michael E. Sharrow, Superintendent



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