



**SHEPHERD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ADMINISTRATION OFFICE**

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After careful review of our local and district Covid-19 data, the completion of the CMDHD School Decision Making Tool and consultation with Dr. Morse, MD, MPH, FAAFP, the medical director for CMDHD, we have determined that our Covid-19 cases warranted a move to virtual learning for at least 1 week, the week of April 12th-16th, for our MS and HS buildings. Our district currently has 30 positive cases of Covid-19 and 237 students and staff in quarantine. These cases are overwhelmingly concentrated in our MS and HS buildings.

We have shifted to virtual learning for the week of April 12th-16th for grades 6-12. The Board and Administration will be monitoring the district's Covid numbers on a weekly basis throughout the remainder of the school year. That data will be used to make the decision to remain virtual or return to face-to-face instruction. Based on this week's data, a decision will be made this Thursday, April 15th, to remain virtual or return to face-to-face at the middle and high school.

Once we return to F2F learning, any parent who has a F2F student wishing to switch to Bluejay Online is welcome to do so. Please talk with your building administrator for details about this process.

Due to our antigen testing program, the low rate of positive cases in our athletes, and the fact that spring sports are outside and socially distanced, we will allow spring sports to maintain their current schedules. For our programs to continue, it's imperative that all athletes and coaches strictly adhere to Covid-19 safety protocols at all times. The spread of this virus is not happening at our athletic events or in our schools, it's happening when people decide to let their guard down outside of school.

Be advised that Shepherd Public Schools continues to follow all state guidelines for contact tracing and quarantining. A negative antigen test does not overrule the quarantine requirement if a student is a "close contact" of someone who tests positive.

Now more than ever, we ask our students and families to be diligent about following all Covid-19 mitigation strategies:

- Wear your mask appropriately when you are with anyone from outside your own house
- Maintain 6ft of distance from people whenever possible
- STAY HOME and get tested if you have ANY symptoms-fever, cough, sore throat, headache, fatigue, body aches, congestion or runny nose, loss of taste or smell
- Get vaccinated if you can

We know the safety protocols we're following in our buildings are working. Please do your part outside of school to keep yourself and your peers safe. Our community prides itself on being a family and helping others. We need your help now. If everyone does their part, we will get past this.

If you receive a phone call from one of our administrators notifying you that your child is a close contact, please understand they are following state guidelines and respond respectfully. They are not making up these requirements, but simply following state mandates to ensure the safety of our students and staff.

The Shepherd Board of Education is in full support of the work our nurse and administrators are doing every day to ensure we are following proper contact tracing and quarantine requirements. We are incredibly empathetic to the hardship these quarantines place on families, but we will not be changing any of the protocols we have in place.

Shepherd High School
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Shepherd Middle School
350 South Chippewa Street
Shepherd MI 48883
Phone: 989.828.6601
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Shepherd Elementary
301 South 4th Street
Shepherd MI 48883
Phone: 989.828.6601
Fax: 989.828.6947

Winn Elementary
8190 Church Street
Winn MI 48896
Phone: 989.866.2250
Fax: 989.866.2740

Odyssey Middle/High School
3441 South Wise Road
Mt Pleasant MI 48858
Phone: 989.773.9473
Fax: 989.779.0429

Transportation & Maintenance Dept.
318 North 1st Street
Shepherd MI 48883
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