

March 12, 2020

Parents/Staff/Community Members/Students,

Last night (Wednesday), Governor Whitmer issued a "State of Emergency" due to the two confirmed cases of Coronavirus disease [COVID-19] here in Michigan. MSU, CMU, and Ferris State University have shut down their respective campuses and will not be conducting face-to-face classes through March 27, as of today. Eastern Michigan University is also cancelling events and classes. There will no doubt be more movement from other colleges and universities and we most likely will not be able to keep up with the changes from those entities on our website. We will however, keep you up-to-date inasmuch as possible as directives and guidance comes in from CDC, Community Mental Health, area hospitals, MHSAA, and other associations as it pertains to Pine River Area Schools.

Most folks seem to want to know if we are considering canceling classes. The simple truth of the matter is that we will consider and then do anything in our means to help Pine River families, kids, staff, and community members be safe. If we are directed to cancel school for a length of time, then we will. We will be guided by what is best for the district during this health crisis. This is one of those times in our nation's and world's history that is uncharted territory.

There are multiple contrary statements being issued right now, but at this moment, the MHSAA is advising schools to NOT CANCEL athletic events as a precaution, but they are imposing a limit on spectators, see here below:

Excerpted from MHSAA website, March 12, Press Release.

**Boys Basketball District Finals**

Rounds: All scheduled for March 13.

Attendance: Limited to parents, legal guardians and essential administrators.

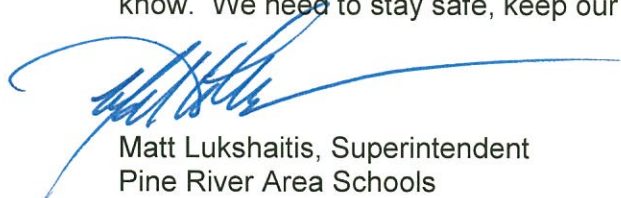
Broadcast: Live streaming of some games, with subscription, on MHSAA.tv.

**Note: Pine River is hosting a District Final at 6:30 p.m. between Pine River High School and Shelby High School. Each school is limited to 50 spectators—maximum— and they must be parents, legal guardians, or administrators. Persons not on either school-approved list will not be allowed entrance to the game.**

To read MHSAA press releases full, visit [www.mhssa.com](http://www.mhssa.com)

The Ivy League cancelled its Men's and Women's basketball tournaments and the Big Ten is considering this reaction likewise. The NCAA is reporting out limiting fans to family and essential staff only, for March Madness. I'm sure there is more news out there and will be even more in the coming days put out by schools, universities, government agencies, and the many media outlets.

As we become aware of more information that affects Pine River Area Schools, we will let everyone know. We need to stay safe, keep our families close, and follow precautions.



Matt Lukshaitis, Superintendent  
Pine River Area Schools