

REETHS-PUFFER SCHOOLS

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COVID-19 UPDATE FROM STEVE EDWARDS

EXECUTIVE ORDER TO STAY HOME, STAY SAFE

Governor Whitmer today announced an executive order to stay home and stay safe. This “shelter in place” type order becomes effective at 12:01 am on Tuesday, March 24 (essentially tonight at midnight) and will last through Monday, April 13. This order limits the operations of non-essential businesses/organizations during this time period. [This link](#) will take you to the order from the Governor and explains exactly what is considered an “essential service” and what is not.

R-P MEAL PROGRAM

Student Meal Provision is an “essential service”. We will continue to provide meals to students as communicated in my email from earlier today.

EVERYONE SHOULD PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING. R-P VOLUNTEERS WILL STAY SIX FEET APART DURING MEAL PREPARATION AND DISTRIBUTION. VOLUNTEERS WILL WASH/DISINFECT HANDS ROUTINELY. SICK PEOPLE WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO VOLUNTEER.

ONLINE LEARNING FOR STUDENTS

Student engagement can be deemed an “essential service” so long as we do so remotely. The Governor announced she is preparing guidance on this topic for schools. Stay tuned. R-P will continue to provide online learning opportunities to support children and families. Do not feel like these learning opportunities are a mandate nor requirement for your kids to complete. The last thing we want parents to feel is guilt or added stress. Keep working hard for your family. But, if time allows, many of our teachers have voluntarily offered their time to provide some resources for parents to use as they see fit.

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE WORKERS

The technology support staff will keep our security and communications systems fully operational. Our maintenance staff will keep our basic facility infrastructure operational. Our custodial staff will continue disinfecting every square foot of our facilities.



FORGIVING DAYS OF INSTRUCTION AND REMOTE LEARNING

Decisions related to the waiving of days and hours of instruction is a function of the Governor and Legislature. They are working to resolve this decision considering whether this closure extends beyond April 13, what options are available for districts to provide some sort of instruction remotely and have those count for days of instruction. Those conversations are ongoing and rely on guidance from the US Department of Education.

RESOURCES FOR WORKERS AND FAMILIES

There are many resources available for families who need a helping hand during this difficult and unpredictable time. Below you can find some resources that may be able to help you or someone you know in need.

MICHIGAN'S COVID-19 HOTLINE

The hotline is open seven days a week from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. at 1-888-535-6136. The latest information is also available at Michigan.gov/Coronavirus and CDC.gov/Coronavirus.

CALL 211

2-1-1 connects you with thousands of nonprofit and government resources in our area such as food pantries, bill pay assistance, family services, utility assistance and more. The 211 system is available by dialing 2-1-1 on your phone or by going to mi211.org.

MICHIGAN BRIDGES PROGRAM

Benefits and coverage through the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services such as food assistance, health care, and state emergency relief. You may access MI Bridges at michigan.gov/mibridges.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE AGENCY

Guidelines for unemployment benefits were temporarily expanded to cover the following:

- Workers who have an unanticipated family care responsibility, including those who have childcare responsibilities due to school closures, or those who are forced to care for loved ones who become ill;
- Workers who are sick, quarantined, or immunocompromised and who do not have access to paid family and medical leave or are laid off; and
- First responders in the public health community who become ill or are quarantined due to exposure to COVID-19.
- You may file an unemployment claim at michigan.gov/uia.



TALKING TO YOUR KIDS ABOUT COVID-19

Wondering how to talk to your child about COVID-19 in an age-appropriate way? [Here](#) is a great resource to help parents.

STAY HEALTHY

Mercy Health has created a COVID-19 Hotline. If you have questions or concerns about COVID-19, you can call 1-833-247-1258 for up-to-date information.

Patients with a confirmed infection have reportedly had mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

The best prevention for viruses, such as influenza, the common cold or COVID-19 is:

- If you think you have symptoms of COVID-19, call your healthcare provider. If you do not have a health care provider, call the nearest hospital.
- 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 contact with people who are sick.
- If you are sick, stay home, and avoid contact with others.
- Stay at least 6 feet away from others when in a public setting.

Thank you for your continued patience as we all learn about new challenges and endure new obstacles put upon families during this time.

Sincerely,
Steve
Steve Edwards, Superintendent

