



# DRYDEN COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Mary Finnigan, Superintendent of Schools

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March 11, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As you may be aware, there are currently two confirmed cases of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Michigan — one in Oakland County and another in Wayne County. In order to prepare and assist local governments to respond to cases as they occur, Governor Gretchen Whitmer has declared a State of Emergency.

Because COVID-19 is new, it presents a significant challenge to public health across the globe. Unlike the flu, there is no vaccine, natural immunity, or specific antiviral treatment for COVID-19.

Please be assured that the District is working collaboratively with local government and public health agencies, as well as the Lapeer ISD, to ensure implementation of measures designed to mitigate the spread of viruses as they are warranted. We understand that there are many questions regarding potential school closures as a result of COVID-19. As of this writing, we are not being advised to close school or cancel activities. We will wait for state-level guidance from the Michigan Department of Education, Governor's Office, and health officials regarding any potential need for closures or activity cancellations.

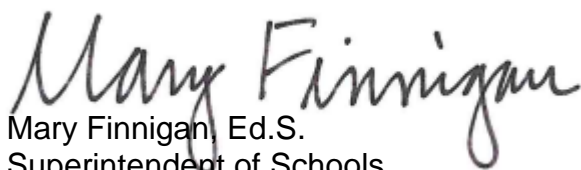
In the interim, the District will continue to employ common sense measures to prevent or slow the spread of viruses, including COVID-19. These will include cleaning and sanitizing common areas and surfaces in the building, as well as frequently handled/shared items such as computers, doorknobs, and equipment. Additional hand sanitizer dispensers have also been added throughout the district. With Spring Break approaching, we are working on protocols for students and staff who have international travel plans.

Even though COVID-19 is caused by a new and different virus than Influenza, many of the symptoms are the same or similar (fever, cough and shortness of breath). In addition, many of the same precautions practiced during flu season also apply to COVID-19, including:

- *Avoiding contact with people who are sick*
- *Covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue and throw it away (or use the crook of the elbow)*
- *Avoiding touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands*
- *Keeping sick students home and have them examined by a medical professional when ill*
- *Washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol content*

As this is an evolving situation, we will continue to keep you informed of any changes that occur in the coming days and weeks.

Sincerely,



Mary Finnigan, Ed.S.  
Superintendent of Schools