



2525 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. South  
Escanaba, MI 49829  
Phone: (906) 786-9300  
FAX: (906) 786-9318  
www.dsisd.net  
Doug Leisenring, Superintendent

Thursday, March 12, 2020

Dear Students, Parents, Staff and Community Members for all Delta-Schoolcraft School Districts:

Governor Whitmer and representatives from the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services announced recommendations for keeping students and staff healthy while addressing the risks associated with COVID-19 (Coronavirus). We have been in close contact with our local health departments and the Michigan Department of Education to determine the necessary protocols we should implement in our schools.

Our local health departments have informed us that our communities are still considered low-risk for the spread of COVID-19. The best thing you can do is educate yourself and follow best practices to help prevent the spread.

- Wash your hands with soap and water.
- 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.
- Stay home if you are sick and contact your healthcare provider.

Our area schools are following recommended cleaning protocols and are employing increased vigilance to clean high-risk areas and surfaces more frequently. This includes disinfecting surfaces, keyboards, bathrooms, and door handles, along with other high-contact surfaces more frequently and with greater attention. The encouraged cleaning protocol for schools and homes is similar to the guidelines to prevent the spread of influenza.

While we want to make sure that our families are informed and prepared, we know that this has affected our students in varying ways. Our counselors and staff members are available to address the concerns our students are sharing regarding COVID-19. Here are some steps you can take at home to address their concerns.

- Correct misinformation for them.
- Focus on what kids can do to keep themselves healthy.
- Don't dismiss their fears. Acknowledge that fear is healthy, and help them manage it appropriately.
- Discuss possible changes or disruptions that may happen, like school closures.

## **GENERAL, SPECIAL AND CAREER-TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS & SERVICES**

Equal Opportunity Employer

The Delta-Schoolcraft ISD does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, age or disability

To limit our exposure and to follow the recommendations provided by the Governor's Office, we will enact the following measures related to events and programs scheduled outside of the regular school day beginning Friday, March 13.

- All field trips are suspended until further notice.
- All assemblies and performances in our schools involving participation by the general public are suspended until further notice.
- All community meetings, community education programming (excluding before/after school childcare, preschool, and daycare programming), rentals, and gatherings scheduled to take place within our school facilities are suspended until further notice.
- All Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) winter tournaments are suspended, effective immediately, and indefinitely. Updates on future athletic contests will be posted at [www.mhsaa.com](http://www.mhsaa.com).
- Any after-school activity consisting of a group of fewer than 100 people and an extension of the normal learning day (clubs, athletic practices, etc.) will continue as planned.

As we prepare for all possible scenarios, we are asking you to develop a plan for your family in the event schools close for an extended period of time. Please know that if someone in your family is among those at high risk of infection, we will work with you to develop a more detailed plan if necessary. The Governor has declared a state of emergency. We are taking COVID-19 very seriously and hope that with your help, we can mitigate the spread of this virus in Delta and Schoolcraft Counties. Governor Whitmer said, "Community mitigation strategies are designed to be implemented at the individual, organizational, and community levels. They apply to businesses, workplaces, schools, community organizations, health care institutions, and individuals of all ages, backgrounds, and health profiles; everyone has an important role to play." We will continue to take any/all measures to keep our children, staff, and school community safe. The situation involving this health challenge is rapidly changing and we will update you as additional guidance is received. Thank you for your attention and support regarding this important topic as safety is our number one priority.

Doug Leisenring, Superintendent, Delta-Schoolcraft Intermediate School District

Jason Lockwood - Superintendent, Bark River-Harris Schools

DeeDee Thill - Superintendent, Big Bay de Noc School

Dr. Coby Fletcher - Superintendent, Escanaba Area Public Schools

Howard Parmentier - Superintendent, Manistique Area Schools

Eric VanDamme - Superintendent, Mid Peninsula Schools

Dr. Jay Kulbertis - Superintendent, Gladstone and Rapid River Public Schools

Tom Miller - Superintendent, Nah Tah Wahsh PSA

## **GENERAL, SPECIAL AND CAREER-TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS & SERVICES**

Equal Opportunity Employer

The Delta-Schoolcraft ISD does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, age or disability