



Message from North Muskegon Public Schools

Dear Norse Family,

As I continue to try my best to keep everyone updated, my primary focus is on keeping our school community safe, healthy, and educated. It is peak flu season in Muskegon County and our most recent attendance rate is at least 90%. Our daily cleaning routines and hygiene practices have been working - thank you for doing your part. There are currently no cases of Coronavirus in Muskegon County.

Having said that, this evening, the Governor issued her "interim recommendations for COVID-19 Community Mitigation Strategies" for businesses, workplaces, schools, community organizations, health care institutions, and individuals of all ages, backgrounds, and health profiles. NM agrees that everyone has some measure of responsibility to help limit the spread of this disease.

I am advising NM staff to follow the Governor's recommendations in the following ways:

1. Educate students about preventative hygiene practices (e.g. wash your hands, sneeze in your elbow, don't shake hands, etc.)
2. Encourage your peer staff members and students to stay home when sick.
3. Encourage students to report influenza-like symptoms to the office
4. Separate sick students and staff from others until they can go home

As a district, NM will do the following:

1. We will monitor and report unusual absenteeism to public health officials.
2. We will regularly clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
3. We will close school upon the direction of Public Health - Muskegon County. Until then, NM will remain open.

Additionally, the Governor advised on some practices that are just not possible without closing school:

1. We do not have the staffing to serve breakfast and lunch one classroom at a time. We will continue serving breakfast and lunch in the cafeteria with appropriate cleaning practices and safe food preparation protocols.
2. We do not have the staffing to limit recess to less than 100 kids at a time. We will continue with recess.



We understand that the Michigan High School Athletics Association has communicated that all MHSAA postseason tournament events will be played as scheduled. However, they will limit or prohibit fan attendance. Major universities in Michigan have instituted online learning exclusively for all classes.

Again, NM remains open. However, we are exploring contingency plans in cooperation with Public Health - Muskegon County, State health leadership, CDC, and other local schools should we be asked to close our school.

As we are learning, plans may change at any hour. I'll do my best to provide more updates as available.