



Niles Community Schools
Administrative Services Center
Superintendent's Office

March 6, 2020

Dear Parents,

As you may have heard, Governor Whitmer has activated the State Emergency Operations Center to prevent the spread of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). As a daily part of your child's life, Niles Community Schools plays an important role in these preventative efforts. There have not been any reported cases of COVID-19 in Michigan, but we want our families to be aware that the district is in close communication with the Berrien County and Cass County Health Department and will continue to follow their recommendations and guidance.

At this time, no immediate action has been recommended. However, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) both encourage the following preventative measures:

- Frequently wash your hands with soap and water
- Cover your mouth when you sneeze or cough
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using regular household cleaning sprays or wipes
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Stay home when you are sick (children and adults)

In an effort to prevent or mitigate illness, consider keeping your child home for an extra day of rest and observation if he or she has any of the following symptoms:

- Very stuffy or runny nose and/or cough
- Mild sore throat (no fever, no known exposure to strep)
- Headache
- Stomach ache

Definitely keep your child at home for treatment and observation if he or she has any of these symptoms:

- Fever (101 degrees or greater and your child may return to school only after his or her temperature has been consistently below 101 degrees, without fever reducing medication for a minimum of 24 hours).
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea (a child should have no loose stools for twenty four hours before returning to school).
- Chills
- General malaise or feelings of fatigue, discomfort, weakness or muscle aches
- Cough or shortness of breath

The CDC does not recommend the use of facemasks for the general public. For more information please visit Berrien RESA's website at: <https://www.berrienresa.org>

As always, the safety and well-being of our students is a top priority. We will continue monitoring the development of COVID-19 and plan accordingly in partnership with local, state and federal health and government officials.

Thank you for entrusting us with the care of your children.

Sincerely,

Dr. Dan Applegate, Superintendent