

Gibraltar School District

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

Information regarding COVID-19 has continued to evolve and become more prevalent since my last communication. With confirmed cases of COVID-19 now in the State of Michigan as well as many other states around the nation, it is quickly becoming a reality that government officials, businesses, communities, families, and individuals must continue to remain informed and take precautionary measures to slow the spread of this virus. School districts must also continue to gather information and create multiple plans in order to flexibly respond in a way that supports the recommendations from national, state, and local health organizations and still maintains high levels of student learning. It is my hope that this letter will clarify where Gibraltar School District is with current and future plans to keep everyone informed as we move forward.

As I mentioned before, much of our work as a district has been spent staying current in order to implement the latest precautionary measures. Our guidance has primarily come from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and Center for Disease Control (CDC) until this evening when Governor Whitmer released recommended community mitigation strategies specific to school districts. Additionally, today, I met with representatives from the Wayne County Department of Health, Wayne County RESA, and the Wayne County Superintendents.

When information about the spread of COVID-19 began increasing and the likelihood of its continued spread became more apparent, I assembled a district COVID-19 team to address potential areas of impact such as athletics, custodial/maintenance, health services, and instructional services to name a few. It is our goal to make informed decisions and organized plans in order to maintain a safe and healthy learning environment for students and staff. The team works continuously to prepare for the evolving and changing situation and will be working to incorporate recommended guidelines in the coming days.

Please know, at the initial onset of this year's difficult cold and flu season, GSD began the process of systematically and routinely disinfecting and deep cleaning high traffic areas in each building such as door handles, bathrooms, cafeterias, and classrooms. More recently, we implemented the additional measure of disinfecting our school buses. To date, these measures represent our best resources in preventing the spread of COVID-19 and other contagious diseases. Please continue to reinforce these preventative measures at home, especially handwashing and keeping children home if they are feeling sick or ill.

Below is a helpful reminder of ways to help prevent the spread of the virus:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Practice elbow bumps instead of handshakes
- Stay home if you are sick and advise others to do the same.
- Always cover coughs or sneezes with a tissue or sleeve.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, if soap and warm water are not available.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces

As a school district, we will continue to monitor and implement the recommendations of the CDC and will work closely with the WCHHS. As needed, I will continue to provide you with information and updates as they develop.

Thank you for your continued support of GSD, especially during this difficult time. By working together we can help support our students, staff, and community.

Sincerely,

Amy Conway

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Superintendent