



*In the pursuit of excellence...*

# Caledonia Community Schools

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Nov. 15, 2020

Good evening,

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) issued a new emergency order today that enacts a three-week pause targeting indoor social gatherings and other group activities in an effort to curb rapidly rising COVID-19 infection rates. This announcement comes on the heels of record breaking numbers of COVID-19 cases and burgeoning hospitalization rates causing ICUs across the state and our own community to near or reach capacity.

The new order specifies several restrictions for PreK-12 education which go into effect Wednesday, Nov. 18. Below is a summary of what we know as of this evening. We will be sending out additional communication before the end of day on Tuesday with additional details. We appreciate your patience as we seek to clarify what this means for our school district and how best comply and keep our staff, students and community safe.

Under the new order, **all in-person activities for students in grades 9-12 are suspended**. We will continue to educate high school students through distance learning, but **may not offer extra-curricular activities or athletics in-person for any grade level**.

The order further limits in-person gatherings for PreK-8 students to instruction only, leaving the decision about in-person PreK-8 instruction to our local district and health department. Michigan has seen fewer outbreaks associated with elementary and middle schools, and younger children are most in need of in-person instruction. It is our understanding that in-person PreK-8 schooling may continue if it can be done with strong mitigation efforts, including mask requirements, social distancing and increased cleaning efforts. We will continue to monitor active cases and local infection rates and seek guidance from the Kent County Health Department regarding ongoing in-person PreK-8 schooling.

Districts may, however, continue to offer in-person instruction at any grade level for special education students and English language learners. **Our administrators will be working with individual buildings over the coming two days on the details.**

These restrictions will be in place for three weeks starting **Wednesday, Nov. 18, through Tuesday, Dec. 8. The last day of in-person instruction for general education high school students must be Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2020.**

To summarize, between November 18 and December 8:

- In-person instruction for 9-12 graders is suspended with the exception of special education (to age 26) or English language learners as described by the district. (details to come)
- K-12 athletics (practice and competition) and extra-curricular activities are suspended
- PreK-8 in-person instruction is permitted at the discretion of the local district and health department

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- Buildings may be used for basic services such as:
  - Food distribution
  - Internet facilitation for students
  - Health care/mental health services
  - Child care
- GSRP and early childhood education is still permitted
- MIOSHA rules still apply for employees reporting to work when remote work is not feasible

While the order lasts for three weeks, we've been told that data will continuously be evaluated, so these restrictions may continue longer. We will continue to provide you with the latest information as it's available.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dr. Dedrick Martin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Dr. Dedrick Martin  
Superintendent