



HASTINGS AREA SCHOOL SYSTEM

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March 2, 2020

Dear Hastings Area School Systems Parent/Guardian(s):

We are providing this information on how HASS is handling the Coronavirus to inform, not alarm. We want to assure you that HASS is doing everything possible to plan for and prevent the spread of Coronavirus and other communicable diseases. HASS works with the Barry-Eaton Health Department to adhere to the Michigan Public Health Code (Act 368 of 1978 as amended), the School Code of 1976 (Act 451 of 1976 as amended), and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services guidelines for the prevention, control, and containment of communicable diseases in schools.

As outlined in Board Policy, Hastings Area School System will exclude a student from school who is suspected of having a communicable disease or infection and is considered a health threat to the school population as defined by law and related rules.

Any potential decision to close schools due to the communicable disease outbreaks shall be made by the Superintendent, in consultation with the Barry-Eaton Health Department medical staff.

Also, please know that we have been discussing alternate forms of education for students in the event that school were canceled for an extended period of time. We would have recommendations for maintaining learning experiences that are both appropriate and engaging.

As always, encourage your student(s) to practice hand hygiene at home and school. Best practices for helping prevent the spread of disease and illness include:

- **Stay home when you are sick.** If possible, stay home from work, school, and errands when you are sick. You will help prevent others from catching your illness. Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.**
- **Cover coughs and sneezes.** Use a tissue to cover coughs and sneezes, then dispose of the tissue. When a tissue is not available, cough or sneeze into your elbow.
- **Clean and disinfect surfaces or objects.** Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at home, work, or school, especially when someone is ill. Find additional CDC resources on how to clean and disinfect schools here: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/school/cleaning.htm>
- **Wash hands for 20 seconds.** Washing hands often under clean, running water can help prevent the spread of germs. For more guidance see the [CDC Handwashing Guidelines](#). If you cannot wash your hands, use alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60-90% alcohol.

For more information on the Coronavirus, please visit the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) website and/or the [Michigan Department of Health and Human Services](#) website.

HASS will continue to follow the guidelines of the CDC, MDHHS, and BEHD surrounding communicable diseases. Again, please know that this is meant to inform you that we have been planning for something that we hope never happens. Thank you for your partnership.

Sincerely,

Daniel Remenap

Daniel C. Remenap
Superintendent