Ford

Hazel Park School District

All In All The Time

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Dear Families and Community,

Our community is saturated with information and opinions about the coronavirus - especially from the media who are now providing near 24/7 coverage. We want to reassure you that safety and security is our number one priority in Hazel Park Schools. We are carefully monitoring the spread of COVID-19 in the United States. The current risk level is LOW. We have been asked many questions and want to share the answers with everyone in our community.

Will Hazel Park Schools close school to prevent the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19)?

No one in Michigan has been diagnosed with this novel coronavirus, and currently, we have not detected community transmission of COVID-19 in Michigan. (Community transmission means the disease is spreading and the source of the infection is unknown.)

There are no plans to close schools at this time. Any decision to implement a school closure in anticipation of — or in response to — community spread of COVID-19 would be made under the direction of public health agencies and/or the Michigan Department of Education. We have not received that direction at this time. The Oakland County Health Division is vigilantly preparing for all possible scenarios, and we will continue to monitor and communicate about any possible impact to our school community.

How can I protect my family from becoming ill?

Staff, students, and families should continue to practice general common-sense precautions to prevent illness including:

- Remain at home if you are sick and contact the Oakland County Health Division, your primary healthcare provider or our on-campus health center for advice.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are unavailable.
- Cover cough with a tissue or sleeve.
- Provide adequate supplies within easy reach, including tissues and hand sanitizer.
- Disinfect common area surfaces and objects

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WHERE TOMORROW BEGINS TODAY!

It is also not too late to get a flu vaccine to help avoid other seasonal respiratory illnesses. The best way to prevent the spread of any illness - including even the common cold - is to stay home when you're sick.

Is my child safe at school?

Viruses can be spread in schools. Hazel Park Schools routinely cleans and disinfects surfaces, especially during cold and flu season, and we are providing extra hand sanitizer and boxes of tissues in the building. Please remind your child to frequently wash their hands and take care not to share food and drinks with friends. Teach your child to regularly practice good hygiene measures. CDC Handwashing Posters are being placed in all buildings to help remind students to wash their hands.

If you are inclined to supplement the supply of tissues, hand sanitizer, or surface wipes at school, please check with school staff to see if they are running low and what they might find helpful. Together, we can maintain a safe and healthy school environment for all learners and educators.

How are the schools being cleaned?

Hazel Park Schools employs standard procedures for cleaning and disinfecting schools with an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registered disinfectant. Typically, this means daily sanitizing surfaces and objects that are touched often, such as bathrooms, desks, countertops, etc. To prevent the spread of illness, additional measures have been put in place to ensure that shared learning resources like computer keyboards are also thoroughly cleaned. Custodial staff are trained to use disinfectants in a safe and effective manner. Additionally, we have ordered a large supply of CDC-approved Clorox wipes and will be disseminating them to the buildings for staff use.

Hazel Park Schools already has one "Clorox 360" cleaning device which we rotate through the schools.. These electrostatic sprayers deliver sanitizing spray to surfaces quickly and efficiently. Sprayers can cover 18,000 square feet per hour, making it easy to quickly disinfect the most populated sections of our buildings quickly and safely in the evening when students and staff are not present. The spray kills 99.9% of bacteria in five seconds and kills cold and flu viruses, MRSA, and norovirus in two minutes or less. It also sanitizes soft surfaces and inhibits the growth of mold and mildew.

What if I decide to keep my child home from school even if it's not closed?

If your child is sick and will be home from school for a prolonged period of time, please obtain a doctor's note and talk with your child's teacher and principal to make a plan for homebound education services with virtual oversight by a teacher.

In accordance with district attendance policies, parents have the right to keep their child home from school for any reason; however, without a doctor's note, the student is responsible for seeking/completing missed coursework. If a student is absent for more than 30 days without a doctor's note, he or she may need to re-enroll in Hazel Park Schools upon his or her return.

Can my child wear a mask at school?

The CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a face mask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19. There is no district or state ban against your child wearing a medical mask at school. Face masks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others. If a student is experiencing symptoms, they should not be at school.

When should my child stay home?

The main symptoms of COVID-19 are cough, fever, and shortness of breath. If your child has cough, fever and shortness of breath and you are concerned about possible COVID-19, call the Oakland County Public Health Division, your primary health care provider, or our Student Health Center. Medical professionals will help you decide if you need an appointment and can help you plan a way to enter the appropriate clinic in a way that avoids potentially infecting others. Students and staff should be fever free for 24 hours before they return to school.

Should my child be tested?

If your child is showing symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath), talk to the Oakland County Public Health Division, your primary health care provider, or the Hazel Park Schools Student Health Center. They will tell you if your child should be tested.

How will I be told if someone at my child's school is exposed or has COVID-19?

If someone in our school community presents with the Novel Coronavirus, Hazel Park Schools will partner with the Oakland County Health Division to inform our community about the exposure and our plans for next steps. Please make sure your Hazel Park School Alerts contact settings are up to date, and that you are following the district social media so that you are receiving all school communications. All communications are also posted on the district website at www.hazelparkschools.org.

Is the district restricting travel for students and staff?

For personal travel, we strongly advise all students, faculty, and staff to follow travel alerts from the CDC and DOS and self-report as recommended. Currently, the CDC recommends that travelers avoid all nonessential travel to Italy, South Korea, Iran, China, and Venezuela.

Are Hazel Park Schools looking to put something in place in regards to remote teaching and learning for students if a school building or district was forced to shut down due to the Coronavirus?

While we have investigated various solutions for providing remote teaching and learning for students, we have not pursued any at this time. School districts must provide equal access to education for all students and HPS are not equipped to supply off-site devices and filtering for all students at this time. It is likely that any decision to implement a district or school closure would be made under the direction of public health agencies and/or the Michigan Department of Education, so it is our hope that they would also give us guidance on possible contingencies for making up lost days (i.e. extending the school year calendar in June).

Where can I get more information?

This is a continually evolving situation. Updates with the most current available information will be shared at Michigan.gov/Coronavirus and CDC.gov/Coronavirus. We will also continue to share with you as more information becomes available.

With Students in Mind,

Dr. Amy Kruppe
Superintendent