

School District of the City of Iron Mountain

Administration Office



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Good Afternoon Mountaineer families.

This morning Governor Whitmer provided an update on the Covid-19 pandemic and response. The Governor's comments centered on our state's rapidly rising case numbers. While not a new order, the Governor today strongly encouraged districts to move to remote learning for high school students for the next two weeks. These are recommendations from Gov. Whitmer based on data from the Department of Health and Human Services and is not a new order. The Governor at this point is asking districts to volunteer to move in this direction. While the focus of the recommendation seemed to be at the high school level, currently Iron Mountain High School is not seeing a sense of urgency to voluntarily send students back to remote learning for the next 2 weeks. While we understand we want to be proactive in cases like these and don't necessarily need to wait for a sense of urgency before we take action, we also need to balance the impact of these decisions on teaching and learning. At the present time with the information provided to us, the decision to move the high school to remote learning for two weeks is not recommended. Certainly, things could change quickly, and we will keep everyone informed should new decisions be made.

However, please be advised we have a completely different set of circumstances at the North Elementary building. Over the past week we have seen a large increase in the number of students who are considered close contacts to individuals who have tested positive. While actual positive cases at this age level are extremely low, the number of students quarantined due to close contact is high. Iron Mountain Public Schools, in conjunction with local health officials, continue to work together and try to make the best decisions with the information we have at the time. At this time, with the rising numbers of students quarantined and cases in the community on the rise, IMPS will be closing North Elementary school and sending students back to remote learning starting Monday, April 12, 2021, and return back to live instruction on Monday, April 26, 2021. We believe based on the information provided to us this is in the best interest of students and staff health and safety.

We are continuing to monitor the situation at the 5-12 building (East, Central Middle, and IMHS) and also how this could impact spring sports, however at this time we don't have any updates on those topics. As soon as decisions are made and changes take place we will notify staff, students, and parents as quickly as possible. Community Schools will keep the North Child Care open during this remote learning window 6:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Families are asked to contact Community Schools for scheduling and information. Call: 779-2660 or email imkcs@imschools.org.

Thank you,

Jerome Sardina
Superintendent