



School District of the City of Iron Mountain

Jerome J. Sardina
Superintendent

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Iron Mountain, MI 49801
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August 12, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

This past spring was anything but typical for our school community. The Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID19) forced us to create remote learning plans overnight, deliver instruction in new and unique ways (sometimes without access to technology) and try to maintain a sense of family while being socially distant. On behalf of everyone at Iron Mountain Public Schools, I commend you for coming together during this challenging time. It is clear that when we work together, our students, our staff members and our community thrive.

This summer, Governor Gretchen Whitmer unveiled the MI Safe Start Plan, a guide outlining a phasing structure to support Michiganders as we progress through the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, on June 30, a MI Safe Schools: 2020-21 Return to School Roadmap was provided to guide educators as they develop their own return to school plans based on each of the phases from the MI Safe Start Plan. With guidance from the Dickinson County Health Department, we are glad to share our plan with you. You can read the plan at <https://www.imschools.org/covid-19.html> Included in this plan, please find:

- Frequently asked questions
- Learning options (in-person, hybrid, virtual)
- What will happen if remote instruction is required due to illness
- Cleaning protocols
- Health screening
- Transportation expectations
- Information about athletics and extracurricular activities
- And more!

We have also included a COVID-19 handbook. This handbook can be found at <https://www.imschools.org/covid-19.html> The handbook will include:

- Quick Reference Guide
- Parent Forms
- State and Local Health Department guidelines
- CDC information
- Health and Safety Protocols
- Explanation of certain reporting procedures

If you are planning on changing your child's mode of instruction from face-to-face to our district's virtual program, you must contact Samantha Roberts no later than Tuesday, August 18, 2020 at 906.221.5673 or imhp-robertss@imschools.org

It is also important to remember that, although we are currently planning to host in-person instruction this fall, there is still the possibility of needing to close a classroom, school building, or the district due to an outbreak of illness. Additionally, there is the possibility increasing numbers of positive COVID-19 cases may require Governor Whitmer to return our region or the state back to Phase 3 of the MI Safe Start Plan - meaning that school buildings will not be open to students and instruction must occur remotely. As always, we will provide updates to you via our school phone messaging system, SwiftReach. Our messages will advise you that there have been updates added to our school website and ask that you read through those updates. Our district is working very hard to help ensure your experience with switching to virtual learning, in the event of a shutdown, is smooth and with as little disruption to the learning as possible.

It is our goal to ensure equitable access to education for all our students while continuing to maintain a safe and healthy environment for everyone in our school community. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your student's building principal.

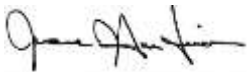
How Confirmed Cases will be Communicated and addressing rumors.

In accordance with our administrative guidelines and procedures, the district, in collaboration with Dickinson County Health Department, will only communicate confirmed cases of COVID-19 in a school building, student event/activity, or district-sponsored function. To help avoid the spreading of rumors and creating undue stress, notification of confirmed cases will come directly from the school district and be shared via the districts phone messaging system, Swift Reach. Names of those impacted (whether it is a student, employee, district approved volunteer, or guest/spectator) will not be shared. All contact tracing will be handled confidentially by the Dickinson County Health Department. In an effort to protect student and employee privacy rights, we respectfully encourage all Iron Mountain Public School families not to spread rumors or false information. The health and safety of everyone is important and trust that we will work as a community to support each other as we face this pandemic together.

Remember, if your child is sick; do not send them to school. If you, your student or a member of your family has COVID-19 symptoms, please contact your health professional.

***Note: Please be advised we have also put an FAQ document on our school website under the COVID-19 page. Parents can go into this document and ask questions of the district. District personnel will frequently visit this document, select questions, and provide answers for everyone to view. Please keep in mind this is not a forum to express opinions or comments, please submit questions only. This is meant to be a resource for the community to get answers to their questions concerning our educational process during COVID. The FAQ can be found at <https://www.imschools.org/covid-19.html>**

Sincerely,



Jerry Sardina
Superintendent