



School District of the City of Iron Mountain

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Dear Mountaineer Families,

On Thursday, November 5th, local school leaders from Dickinson County were notified by the Dickinson-Iron District Health Department (DIDHD) of a COVID-19 update. This notification informed us of the current status of COVID-19 cases in our county and our area's ability to handle the current spike in positivity rates. Consequently, after evaluating all data on cases, trends, and the community as a whole, the DIDHD concluded that it is their recommendation that all local schools should transition to virtual learning for a two-week period from November 9 – November 22, 2020. After consulting with school personnel and our School Board of Education, IMPS has decided to follow this recommendation. Additionally, due to the shortened week of November 23, 2020, IMPS will extend the remote learning through November 25, 2020 and will return to face-to-face instruction after Thanksgiving break (11/30/20).

Please note that the IMPS decision to return to a virtual learning platform is in response to the recommendation of the health department to address a countywide concern and is not reflective of an outbreak or ongoing transmission within the schools. The most updated number of active positive cases among students and staff for Iron Mountain Schools can be found on our school website. Iron Mountain Public Schools feel it is important to continue as many programs as possible. During our remote learning phase, many of our programs will continue to operate. Our food service department will continue to provide meals to all students. For those families that wish to be included in our meal distribution plan please visit our district website at www.imschools.org and fill out the "COVID-19 School Closure Lunch Pick-Up Survey." Our athletics will also continue during this phase.

As I have stated many times before, IMPS understands the many challenges families are faced with when schools transition into and out of virtual learning. We believe wholeheartedly in face-to-face live instruction and believe this is the best educational platform for our children. Our goal from the onset of this pandemic has been to do our part to keep our doors open as long as we can while continuing to provide quality educational services and instruction to our learners while balancing safety for everyone. We are hopeful this newest adjustment back to remote learning will allow us to bring students back for the remainder of the first semester and beyond.

If you have any questions about these plans, please do not hesitate to call the school at the above listed number.

Respectfully,

Jerry Sardina
Superintendent