



April 13, 2021

Dear Parents,

We hope your spring break was peaceful and healthy. We'd like to thank you for continuing to support our school [COVID-19 plans and procedures](#). As always, the health of our students and staff is our number one priority.

On Friday, April 9, Governor Gretchen Whitmer held a COVID-19 briefing and talked about the alarming virus trends, voluntary restrictions and a possible timeline for when vaccinations will turn things around. Both she and chief medical executive of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, are quite concerned about what the data is showing and indicated that we are on track to potentially see a surge in cases that's even greater than the one we saw in the fall.

We are currently at four times the case rate we saw in the middle of February and the percentage of COVID-19 tests that are coming back positive is up to 18%, which is also four times the positivity rate in mid-February. Hospitalizations have increased to the point in which 15.2% of all hospital beds across the state are being used for COVID-19 patients. To bring down rising cases, Governor Whitmer called on high schools to voluntarily switch to remote learning and for youth sports to voluntarily suspend games and practices for two weeks. She emphasized that pausing activities temporarily will help prevent the spread of the virus and save lives. Eating outdoors, ordering carry-out and wearing masks during small gatherings was also suggested. Gathering with multiple households should be avoided and if gathering, it should be small, outside, and with a mask. Testing should take place if you have been exposed.

There is a light at the end of this pandemic tunnel, but we must continue to stand together and wear masks, wash hands, stay home when sick, follow social distancing, and get vaccinated as soon as possible.

At this time, we plan to continue delivering a quality program face-to-face for your children; however, we will make decisions based on the state and local data, on the advice of our Task Force advisers, specifically Dr. Moussa and Dr. Abu-Khdeir, and what we determine to be in the best interests of our students and staff based on our own experiences.

We will monitor the situation closely to determine the safest steps for our school community and will notify you immediately if there are any changes. Again, thank you for your continued support. Stay safe and stay well.

Kay Neff and Laura Springer



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