



April 9, 2021

Greetings,

At this morning's press conference, Governor Whitmer encouraged a pause for high school in-person instruction along with all athletics to combat the spread of COVID. As a point of distinction, the governor did not mandate any closures. Across the MOISD, from the onset of this pandemic, we have worked closely with our local health department to provide the safest learning and teaching environments possible. Their support and recommendations have been crucial to our collective successes in safely operating in-person learning. For this reason, immediately following the governor's announcement, we reached out to the local health department medical director. In response to our request, our health department has communicated they **will not be recommending** school districts suspend in-person learning. Instead, district leadership will continue working with the local health department to make informed and safe decisions regarding individual classrooms, buildings, and districts.

All districts within the MOISD will remain open for high school in-person learning. This decision, as referenced above, is made in confidence based on the guidance provided by the local health department. All mitigation and safety protocols will remain in place. The same is true for athletics.

Of course, as we have experienced multiple times throughout the pandemic, information and realities can change in an instant. If circumstances within a classroom, building, or district were to change, local district leadership would respond accordingly.

For more than a year, COVID has dominated just about every facet of life. During this time, schools, students, staff, families, and communities have responded as well as possible. As we optimistically began thinking about life post-COVID, our current realities serve as a reminder there are still obstacles to overcome. As such, we must all continue to do our parts to beat back COVID. The mitigation measures of social distancing, washing hands, staying home when ill, wearing masks are as necessary now as ever. Additionally, all those eligible should, in consultation with medical experts, consider getting the COVID vaccine.

Sincerely,

Tim Haist, Superintendent
Big Rapids Public Schools

Michael Bob Grover Jr., Superintendent
Chippewa Hills School District

Michael Sweet, Superintendent
Reed City Area Public Schools

R. Ross Meads
Crossroads Charter Academy

Steve Locke, Superintendent
Mecosta-Osceola Intermediate School District

Roger Cole, Superintendent
Morley Stanwood Community Schools

Shirley Howard, Superintendent
Evart Public Schools