

Update
From Your Superintendent
July 28, 2020

I know everyone is wondering if school is really going to start on Wednesday, August 19, 2020 for Evart Public Schools students. You are most likely aware that Governor Whitmer issued Executive Order 2020-142 which requires every school district in Michigan to develop, adopt, and follow a COVID-19 Preparedness Plan. The entire plan consists of actually three plans that outline what school will look like if you are in Phase 1-3, Phase 4 or Phase 5.

We are currently in Phase 4 which allows students to come back to school face to face with many required restrictions. Our plan must include all the requirements that are found in MI Safe Schools: Michigan's 2020-21 Return to School Roadmap. We are currently meeting frequently at the district and building levels to develop a plan that will meet the needs of all our students and families. With that in mind, our plan will be based on the belief that our students should all have the opportunity to have face to face instruction. Therefore, it is our intention that our Evart Public Schools will open on August 19th with face to face instruction for students Kindergarten through 12th grade. However, we know that face to face instruction might not be right for all students and families in light of Covid-19. Therefore, along with face to face, our families will have an option for our online instruction which will be taught by Evart Public School District teachers. We truly believe that by offering both a face to face and an online component we can meet the needs of all students.

I want to assure you that we will do everything reasonably possible to ensure the safety of our students and staff. There will be many requirements that must be enforced to make this happen. Your help, cooperation and support will be vital to ensuring the safety of your child as well as the safety of others.

We will need to register students for online instruction. We are posting a form for you to fill out if your student will be using the online option when school starts. It will be accessible via the district website at evartps.org and also on the school's facebook pages. A hard copy form is available at the Central Office located in the Middle School. This must be completed and returned by Tuesday, August 4th. This is very important so that we can make sure we have everything ready for your child to begin online when school starts. It is also important to ensure that face to face classes are balanced in number. Please return the online registration form as soon as possible. If we do not get an online registration back by August 4th, we will assume your child(ren) is/are planning to return in person.

We are in Region 2 which is the Grand Rapids Region. There has recently been a spike in the percentage of positive cases which is of great concern to us. Why? If the Governor moves us back to Phase 3 it would mean that our schools would have to close and go to a total virtual delivery of instruction. Hopefully this does not happen.

All plans must be submitted to the state by August 17th or 7 days before school starts for students; for us, that would mean August 12th. We want you to know as soon as possible what new rules and guidelines will be in place when school starts. Therefore, it is our goal to have our plan completed and approved by August 6th.

I will continue to update you as new information is available. We look forward to providing our students with the best educational opportunity possible during these very challenging times.

Shirley Howard