

HEALTH DEPARTMENT RESPONDS TO STATE-WIDE K-12 SCHOOL CLOSURES DUE TO COVID-19

Preschools, daycares, and Head Start programs are not impacted by
mandatory closure

March 13, 2020 – District Health Department #10 (DHD#10) is responding to the announcement made late on March 12th by Governor Whitmer that effectively closed all K-12 schools starting March 16th through April 5th. This state-wide closure does not impact pre-schools, daycares, or Head Start programs at this time, however, these organizations and programs are able to make individualized closure decisions as needed.

“It’s understandable that the Governor’s state-wide K-12 school closure decision raises a lot of questions for families in our communities” says Kevin Hughes, Health Officer for DHD#10. “These measures may seem extreme, but they will ultimately lessen the spread of the virus and slow the progression of illness throughout the state. Community members need to do their part to protect those who are most at risk of serious illness, continue taking preventative actions to keep others healthy.”

To date, District Health Department #10 has not reported any cases of COVID-19, but with recently increased testing and cases reported in neighboring areas, it is expected that community transmission of the virus will occur.

All DHD#10 residents are encouraged to take every day, common sense precautions to avoid getting sick and protect others:

- Implement personal protective measures (stay home when sick, regular handwashing, cover coughs/sneezes, and clean frequently touched surfaces daily).
- Stop hand-shaking – use other noncontact methods for greeting one another (like an elbow bump).
- Create a household plan of action in case of illness in the household or further disruption of daily activities due to COVID-19 in the community.
- Individuals at increased risk of severe illness should consider staying at home and avoiding large gatherings or other situations of potential exposures, including travel.
- Consider canceling non-essential travel as crowded travel settings, like airports, may increase your risk of exposure to COVID-19.

DHD#10 staff are working constantly to monitor this evolving situation and will continue to provide new information to the community as things change. More information can be found at www.dhd10.org, www.michigan.gov/coronavirus, or www.cdc.com/coronavirus

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