

# Back to School 2020-2021

## Update October 29

Jennifer Morse, MD, MPH, FAAFP  
Medical Director  
CMDHD/MMDHD/DHD#10

# This meeting is for School and Health Department Staff

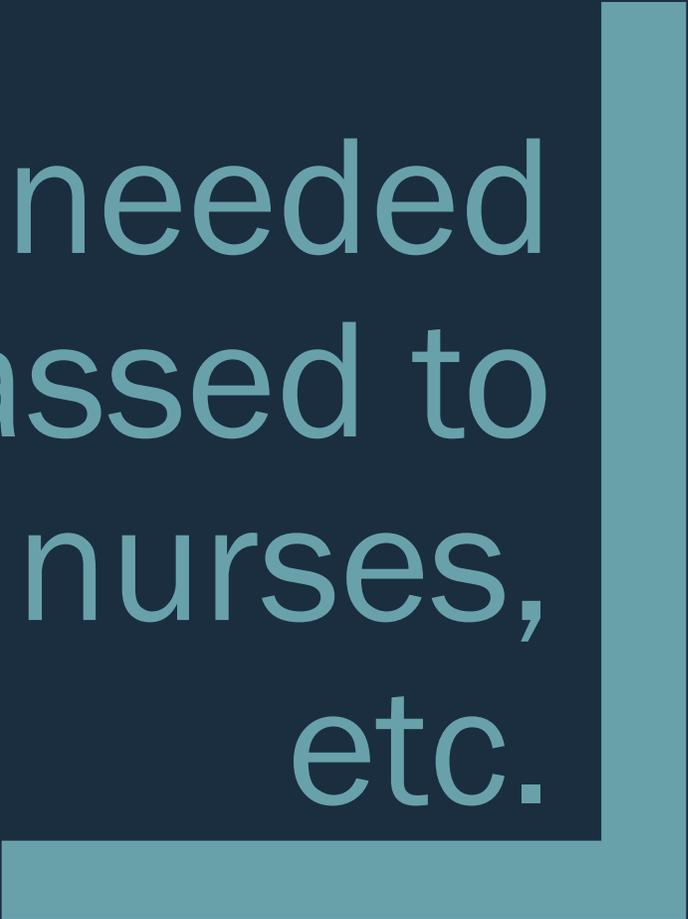
We have limited time to cover all our topics. The slides and recordings will be available on our websites within 1-3 days.

- <https://www.dhd10.org/coronavirus/>
- <https://www.mmdhd.org/novel-coronavirus/>
- <https://www.cmdhd.org/novel-coronavirus>

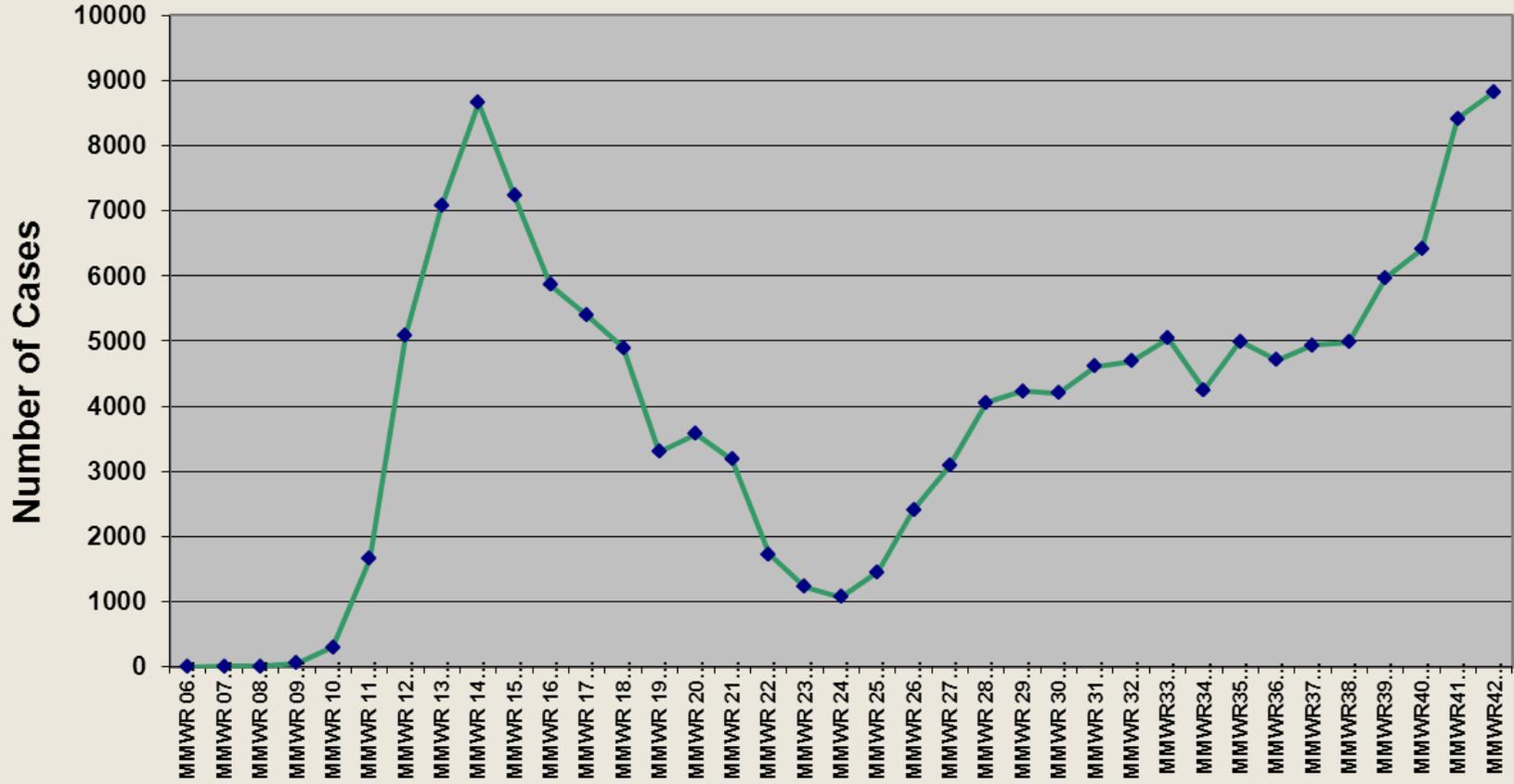
If you have questions, please send them to:

- For Roscommon, Osceola, Clare, Gladwin, Arenac, Isabella Counties:
  - [info@cmdhd.org](mailto:info@cmdhd.org)
- For Missaukee, Crawford, Kalkaska, Wexford, Lake, Mason, Manistee, Oceana, Newaygo, Mecosta Counties
  - [info@dhd10.org](mailto:info@dhd10.org)
- For Montcalm, Gratiot, Clinton Counties
  - <https://www.mmdhd.org/contact/>

Please make sure all needed  
information is passed to  
school secretaries, nurses,  
etc.



**Novel Coronavirus Confirmed Cases  
Michigan - 2020  
Cases by MMWR Weeks**



**MMWR Weeks**

MMWR Weeks are assigned by CDC to standardize reporting & end on Saturday

# UNOFFICIAL Review of data from the 19 counties last 2 weeks (cases reported to us from 10/12-10/26)

- Total of 2042 cases in all 19 counties
  - *109 cases (5%) were in people attending or working at/for in-person schools (public or private)*
  - *39 (2% of total cases, 36% of school cases) were in teachers or other staff*
  - *70 (3% of total cases, 64% of school cases) were in students K-12*
- As point of comparison:
  - *On average: 10% of cases in MI occur in kids age 10-19, 5.1% nationally*
- Four situations were labeled as “outbreaks” (spread between individuals in the school)
  - *One involved 5 cases, 3 with 2 cases each (total 11 cases, or 10% of school cases, 0.5% of all cases)*
  - *The remaining 98 cases (90%) were acquired in the community*
- NOTE: at least 21 students that were home schools/learning online also became infected (1% of all cases)

# Recommended Article to share...

- Are The Risks Of Reopening Schools Exaggerated? October 21, 2020, NPR  
<https://www.npr.org/2020/10/21/925794511/were-the-risks-of-reopening-schools-exaggerated>
  - *Despite widespread concerns, two new international studies show no consistent relationship between in-person K-12 schooling and the spread of the coronavirus. And a third study from the United States shows no elevated risk to childcare workers who stayed on the job.*
  - *Combined with anecdotal reports from a number of U.S. states where schools are open, as well as a crowdsourced dashboard of around 2,000 U.S. schools, some medical experts are saying it's time to shift the discussion from the risks of opening K-12 schools to the risks of keeping them closed.*

# IDSA Media Briefing: COVID & Campus

<https://www.idsociety.org/Podcasts/videos/idsa-media-briefing---covid--campus-how-are-schoolsand-studentsfaring/>

- Take a public health informed approach
- Doesn't mean zero cases of COVID-19 it means having the infrastructure in place to contain cases and prevent large outbreaks
- Returning to face-to-face education is not zero risk but the value of in person instruction is so large. Not everyone can learn remotely or has a safe place to learn remotely.
- Social gatherings and close contacts with others outside of the classroom is really the main risk; spread within classrooms is not seen often.
- We must look at several pieces of data continuously. There is not one number and not one single piece of information available to us that prompts a change but a set of situations that must be considered when making decisions about school.
- The community must take responsibility and it is the behavior of the community that will ultimately dictate if or keep our kids back in school safely. which is best for student mental health.
  - *It depends on universal masking, hand hygiene, and social distancing*

# Review of Data

NOTE: % positive may be falsely high due to under reporting of all negative tests at this time

Counties where  
symptomatic students  
should have evaluation  
prior to return to school\*

■ ALL OF THEM

\*Also should have evaluation if any concern for  
exposure to COVID-19, or at the discretion of the school  
or family

# Travel...again

- We would recommend following the CDC guidelines at: [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-during-covid19.html?CDC\\_AA\\_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Ftravelers%2Ftravel-in-the-us.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-during-covid19.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Ftravelers%2Ftravel-in-the-us.html)
- Higher Risk Activities: Some types of travel and activities can put you at higher risk for exposure to COVID-19 (see list below). If you participated in higher risk activities or think that you may have been exposed before or during your trip, take extra precautions (in addition the ones listed above) to protect others **for 14 days after you arrive**:
  - *Stay home as much as possible.*
  - *Avoid being around people at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19.*
  - *Consider getting tested for COVID-19.*
- What activities are considered higher risk?
  - *Being in an area that is experiencing high levels of COVID-19, including destinations with a Level 3 Travel Health Notice. You can check the Travel Health Notices for recommendations for places you have traveled, including foreign countries and U.S. territories. You can also check states, counties, and cities to determine if these areas are experiencing high levels of COVID-19.*
  - *Going to a large social gathering like a wedding, funeral, or party.*
  - *Attending a mass gathering like a sporting event, concert, or parade.*
  - *Being in crowds* – for example, in restaurants, bars, airports, bus and train stations, or movie theaters.
  - *Traveling on a cruise ship or river boat.*
- If you know that you were exposed to someone with COVID-19, postpone further travel. If you get any symptoms of COVID-19, see What to Do If You Are Sick.
- **So: to translate:** If someone travels out of state to a state with a rate per 100,000 higher than Michigan's rate\* or 20-30.9 or above whichever is higher (see [https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#cases\\_casesper100klast7days](https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#cases_casesper100klast7days)) you **can choose** to have them home on quarantine x 14 days.

\*I say this because if Michigan's rate happens to be 50/100,000 and they travel to a state with a rate of 40/100,000 it doesn't make sense to quarantine them...

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oct. 27, 2020

Governor's Office Media Contact: [Press@Michigan.gov](mailto:Press@Michigan.gov)

Treasury Department Contact: [Ron Leix](mailto:Ron.Leix), Treasury, 517-335-2167

# Whitmer Administration Announces Grants for Eligible Teachers, Support Staff

## Grant Dollars Provide Support for Extra Hours, Costs Incurred due to In-Person Learning Suspension in Spring

**LANSING, Mich.** – Today, Governor Gretchen Whitmer and State Treasurer Rachael Eubanks announced that eligible Michigan teachers and support staff who worked additional time and incurred additional costs during the 2019-2020 school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic can receive a grant through two new grant programs.

Under both the Teacher COVID-19 Grant and the Support Staff COVID-19 Grant programs, eligible teachers can receive up to \$500 and eligible support staff can receive up to \$250. The state of Michigan's Fiscal Year 2021 budget provides \$53 million for eligible K-12 classroom teachers and \$20 million for eligible support staff.

"Our teachers and support staff have made incredible sacrifices this year to ensure our kids can get a great education while Michigan fights the COVID-19 pandemic. They deserve all of the support we can give as we continue working around the clock to keep Michigan families safe," said **Governor Whitmer**. "My administration will continue working hard to protect our educators and ensure our kids are learning the skills they need to grow this year. And as we continue to fight this virus, remember to mask up, maintain six feet of physical distancing, and get your flu vaccine."

"Teachers and support staff have put in the extra hours and time to ensure our children receive an education during the COVID-19 pandemic," **Eubanks** said. "We need to support our school employees as they continue to support our students and families during the pandemic. I thank them for all they are doing in these extraordinary times."

"Having been a classroom teacher for nearly 20 years, I know that this past spring was a stressful time for teachers and support staff," said **Sen. Dayna Polehanki**. "The shift from in-person instruction to remote learning that occurred due to COVID-19 required additional time, costs, and energy to ensure learning continued, so I applaud Governor Whitmer and State Treasurer Eubanks for recognizing and supporting educators with these new grant programs."

"When COVID-19 hit our state, teachers and support staff across Michigan rallied to keep our children connected to learning and their school communities," said **Rep. Sheryl Kennedy**. "This meant learning a completely new skill set as they were simultaneously trying to keep students on par with their learning. This was and continues to be an effort that exceeds the 40 hour work week and consumed most of the non-student calendar days including spring and summer breaks. This grant will not replace or compensate that time hour for hour, but it is an effort for the state to say, 'We see you. We get it. Thank you.'"

"COVID-19 has challenged our communities and especially our schools, but together, as a state we have pushed forward. As a former high school teacher, I applaud the efforts of teachers and students as they work tirelessly to keep our education system the best it can be," said **Rep. Nate Shannon**. "This grant being made available to teachers will help continue to provide resources to the classroom, which is more necessary than ever. I am very happy today to echo a message to all teachers and students that we stand with them."

"Michigan's teachers and support staff have gone above and beyond during this health crisis to ensure all our students succeed despite the challenges we have faced," said **Rep. Matt Koleszar**. "As a teacher, I understand the sacrifices educators make for their students even during ordinary times, and the times we live in now are far from ordinary. Teachers have spent countless hours developing new ways to educate and support our students that fit our new reality, and I'm proud to stand with the governor to make sure they have what they need to support themselves and their families while they continue their critical work."

To help combat the spread of COVID-19, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer on April 2 signed an executive order that suspended in-person instruction of K-12 students and provided limited and temporary relief from certain requirements so K-12 instruction could continue through alternative methods during the public health crisis.

### Teacher COVID-19 Grant Program

The Teacher COVID-19 Grant Program was created in state law to recognize the additional time and additional costs classroom teachers in a school district or nonprofit nonpublic school spent to ensure learning continued when in-person instruction was suspended in the spring.

Full- and part-time classroom teachers who taught K-12 students in a school district or nonprofit nonpublic school classrooms during the 2019-2020 school year prior to the suspension of in-class activities are eligible.

To receive up to \$500, teachers must have performed at least of 75% of their standard instruction workload in brick and mortar classrooms during the last school year prior to the suspension of in-person instruction on April 2.

### Support Staff COVID-19 Grant Program

The Support Staff COVID-19 Grant Program was created in state law to recognize the additional time eligible K-12 support staff spent outside of normal working hours, hazardous conditions encountered and additional costs incurred to provide services to students when in-person instruction was suspended in the spring.

School support staff includes a full- or part-time paraprofessionals, aides or noninstructional staff who work in a public school, which includes local and intermediate school districts and public school academies.

To receive up to \$250, individuals must have performed at least of 75% of their workload in brick and mortar buildings during the last school year prior to the suspension of in-person instruction on April 2.

### Additional Grant Program Information

The Michigan Department of Treasury is working with the Michigan Department of Education, school entities and other education partners to implement the programs. Eligible teachers and support staff should consult the school entity where they worked during the 2019-2020 school year to ensure they receive a grant.

Grant funding checks are anticipated to be sent directly from the state Treasury Department to teachers and support staff in February 2021.

**For more information about the grant program, including frequently asked questions, go to [www.michigan.gov/TSSC19Grants](http://www.michigan.gov/TSSC19Grants).**

# Questions?

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