



# Manistee Area PUBLIC SCHOOLS

550 Maple Street | Manistee, MI 49660  
Phone: 231-723-3521 | Fax: 231-723-1507 | Web: ChipsLead.org

Superintendent: Ronald J. Stoneman  
Business Manager: Howard J. Vaas

March 23, 2020

Dear MAPS Staff, Students and Families;

As you are likely aware, today Governor Whitmer signed the “Stay Home, Stay Safe” Executive Order. Effective at 12:01 am on March 24, 2020, for at least the next three weeks, individuals may only leave their home or place of residence under very limited circumstances. We are providing this update to clarify how this will impact our school district.

First, of course, this means that the **required school closure is extended and will last until midnight on Monday, April 13. If schools are able to resume, Tuesday, April 14 will be the first day back.** State lawmakers are still working to answer the question regarding forgiveness of days that the district will be closed. We will share that information with you as soon as we have a definitive answer.

The Michigan Department of Education received preliminary approval over the weekend from the U.S. Department of Education to waive federal requirements for M-STEP and MI-Access student testing for this school year.

On Friday, Governor Whitmer stated she is absolutely committed to ensuring the needs of our students, parents, and families are met as we navigate these uncharted waters. She stated that she will be working in the coming days to ensure seniors graduate and that no child is held back as a result of our ability to provide face-to-face instruction during the COVID-19 school closure.

Additionally, Governor Whitmer has committed to ensuring that the students of our community have access to the food they need during the COVID-19 pandemic. Under the governor's executive order, K-12 school food services are considered critical infrastructure and should continue. The governor deeply appreciates the vital work that our frontline school employees are doing every day to ensure that our kids have the food they need while the order is in effect.

We will continue to update and add resources to the [www.chipslead.org/family-resources/](http://www.chipslead.org/family-resources/) webpage that was set up to assist our students and families during this closure. We will provide updates to you via email and the district website, should changes be made that impact our district.

Stay well and stay safe.

Sincerely,

Ron Stoneman, Superintendent  
Manistee Area Public Schools