

KENT COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT



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HEALTH ADVISORY March 6, 2020

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Update for Kent County Schools and Childcares on Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

As you are aware, the situation regarding COVID-19 is changing rapidly. Please visit our website for information on COVID-19 at <https://www.accesskent.com/Health/coronavirus.htm>.

Preparing for COVID-19:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html>

- Prevent the introduction of respiratory germs into your facility
 - Ensure sick leave policies allow employees to stay home if they have signs of respiratory infection
 - Help families understand when to keep children home and have a plan for childcare
 - Communicate with your community: “Toolkit for Communicating about COVID-10.”
<https://www.mspra.org/>
- Prevent the spread of respiratory germs within your facility
 - Support respiratory hygiene, place handwashing posters throughout the area. Consider using this:
<https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/pdf/wash-your-hands-poster.pdf>
 - Provide soap and water or hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol and tissues
 - Perform routine environmental cleaning and provide disposable wipes for commonly used surfaces
- Monitor and plan for absenteeism and establish procedures for students and staff who are sick at school
 - Establish procedures to ensure that those who are sick are sent home as soon as possible
 - Keep sick students and staff separate from well students and staff until they can leave

If a child or staff member tests positive for COVID-19:

Kent County Health Department (KCHD) will provide guidance on possible school closure. At this time, we would suggest a closure of 5 calendar days to provide time for school cleaning and disinfection and further investigation. KCHD will work with the school to determine when staff and students should return to school. We recognize that some students and staff members may be at higher-risk for serious illness.

Updates as of 3/6/2020:

- **Global:** In the past 24 hours, there were 99,624 confirmed (2241 new). There are CDC level 3 travel warnings for China, Iran, Italy, South Korea, level 2 for Japan, level 1 for Hong Kong.
<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports>
- **Michigan:** There have been no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Michigan. Testing has been approved for 16 people, 8 have been negative, 8 results are pending.
- **U.S.:** As of 3/6/2020 there have been a total of 245 cases in the U.S. with 19 states reporting cases.
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html>

Resources:

If you have questions about COVID-19, visit our website or the Centers for Disease Control
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/summary.html>.

END