



HARBOR BEACH
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
402 S 5TH ST HARBOR BEACH MI 48441 989 479 3261

March 10, 2020

The absolute safety, health, and well-being of our students and staff are of the utmost importance at all times. Harbor Beach Community Schools are closely monitoring events surrounding the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). Currently, there are no confirmed cases in Huron County. Having said that, Harbor Beach Community Schools will continue to monitor Coronavirus and follow the recommendations of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, the Health Department, and the Centers for Disease Control regarding communicable disease protocols.

As you are aware, the cold and flu season comes every year at this time. Health authorities indicate that the best ways to prevent the spread of COVID-19 are the same recommendations for preventing the spread of the flu virus. Our school system regularly cleans all hard surfaces (desktops, counter tops, etc) several times a week. If you've been in our building recently, you know we've significantly upgraded our cleaning and have a very high standard. I have met with our maintenance director, and we are in complete agreement about the serious level of cleanliness we must have. We have increased our cleaning of doorknobs and push/pull handles and do this several times a week. We use the highest potency disinfectant we know of which has a "kill time" of less than 5 minutes, meaning it kills germs very quickly and effectively. Additionally, we will continue to do our best to make sure alcohol based hand sanitizers and antibacterial soaps are present in every classroom and in common areas.

Please know, our staff will encourage simple and effective habits of frequent hand washing, covering every cough or sneeze, and cleaning classroom tables/surfaces frequently. This is important not just to prevent the spread of COVID-19, but of course it helps prevent the spread of other infections that can lead to student illness and absences. Harbor Beach will continue to follow the guidance of local, state, and federal health officials with regard to all communicable diseases. Of course, each situation is unique and must be treated carefully without overreaction, yet student and staff safety will remain our priority. Our district is taking steps to think ahead and plan for something we pray we'll never need to use. We have discussed what we'd do in the unlikely case of closing school and feel if this extreme situation was to arise we'd be prepared.

Once again, I want to be clear that our district will take seriously any reports of the virus. As mentioned earlier, we will seek advice from the Health Department and other government agencies. We will not overreact, but we will make student safety as our first priority.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Dr. Shawn Bishop'.

Dr. Shawn Bishop
Superintendent