



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Wyoming Public Schools Moves To Remote Learning Until November 30, 2020

**November 12, 2020**

**WYOMING, Michigan** – Wyoming Public Schools Superintendent, Craig Hoekstra, announced today that all District in-person students will shift to remote learning. All Wyoming Public School buildings will close for in-person instruction at the end of the day on Thursday, November 12, 2020 and reopen on Monday, November 30, 2020. All students attending school in-person will move to remote instruction with their teacher(s).

Over the past week, we have been notified of over 20 new COVID-19 cases, and significantly increasing large numbers of individuals who are in self-quarantine across our school district. While many factors are considered when making this decision, the KCHD has recommended the District move to a remote learning environment from Friday, November 13th until Monday, November 30th. In addition to our concern for the health and safety of our students and staff, the high numbers of individuals affected has also impacted the availability of teaching staff, bus drivers, food service workers, and students coming to school.

WPS food service will provide “Grab & Go” meals, for all students, on Tuesdays at two locations, Wyoming Junior High (2125 Wrenwood SW) and West Elementary (1840 38<sup>th</sup> Street SW). The Wyoming Junior High distribution will take place from 10:00 a.m until 12:00 p.m., and the West Elementary food distribution will run from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Seven days of student meals (breakfast and lunch) will be provided.

“The decision to move to remote teaching and learning is not an easy one to make. Our goal as a district, and community, is to have students remain engaged in in-person learning. While this temporary shift to remote learning may present challenges to students, staff, and families, my hope is that we are able to return to safe, in-person learning as soon as possible. It is important for us to work together, whether in school or in the community, to protect ourselves and others from becoming ill,” said Craig Hoekstra, WPS Superintendent.

The District urges all WPS families, students, and staff who experience symptoms, or who may have been exposed to COVID-19, to get tested and self-quarantine. Parents are encouraged to monitor their children for the onset of any symptoms related to COVID-19. If there is any change in your child’s health, please contact your medical provider. The Kent County Health Department offers free COVID-19 screenings at multiple sites via appointment or walk-in; visit their website for additional information: [Kent County Health Department - COVID-19](#). The KCHD will continue its process for contact tracing and may contact you for further follow-up if it is determined that you are a “close contact”. If you are not considered a “close contact” following their guidelines, you will not hear anything further from them. Under HIPPA/FERPA Laws, we are required to protect the confidentiality of individuals, unless there is a reason to inform you of their identity.



We urge all of our students, staff and families to comply with these CDC guidelines to avoid further spread of COVID-19, as well as other contagious illnesses, in our community.

- Clean your hands often
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Put distance between yourself and other people (at least 6 feet)
- Cover your mouth and nose with a mask when around others
- CDC recommends that people wear masks in public settings and when around people outside of their household, especially when other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain

WPS families are reminded to check their email and ParentVue accounts for additional updates.

The welfare of our staff, students and community is at the center of every decision we make. Thank you for your continued understanding, support, and trust in Wyoming Public Schools to keep our students, staff and community as safe as possible.

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*Wyoming Public Schools will empower all students to discover and achieve their potential in an inclusive, inspiring, and innovative culture of learning.*

*Wyoming Public Schools is located in Wyoming, Michigan. Additional information regarding Wyoming Public Schools can be found on our official website, <http://www.wyomingps.org>.*

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