



Communication in regard to COVID-19 Preparedness & Response Plan (Return to School) Executive Order 2020-142

Communication Dated: July 15, 2020

Hillsdale County Re-entry Plan

OUR PURPOSE

The global COVID-19 pandemic has been an unprecedented moment in history, including for our public schools. Almost overnight, educators were directed to fundamentally transform the very nature of school itself — one in which teaching and learning no longer took place inside a traditional school building. **While there are many unknowns at this time, we promise to be ready with multiple plans for a safe return to school this fall.** One thing is certain: the way we look at public education will never be the same.

OUR CHARGE

As 8 autonomous public school districts and 2 public school academies within the Hillsdale County ISD, we pledge to provide safe and accessible learning options for our students and families this fall. **Our collective and unwavering commitment is to put the needs of our students and staff above all else.** We value collaboration as a necessary driver for advancing student learning and school safety in Hillsdale County.

All Hillsdale County ISD, Local School Districts and Public School Academies will follow the required guidelines given by the Governor's EXECUTIVE ORDER No. 2020-142.

Hillsdale County ISD member public schools and districts – Litchfield Community Schools, Jonesville Community Schools, North Adams-Jerome Public Schools, Pittsford Area Schools, Waldron Area Schools, Hillsdale Community Schools, Hillsdale Preparatory School, Will Carleton Academy, Camden-Frontier Local Schools, and Reading Community Schools.

Our Plan is based on the Michigan Education Road Map released on June 30th by the State and focuses on **Phase 4** of the State Road Map. If Michigan is in MI Safe Start **Phases 1-3** come August, schools will not open for in-person instruction and instruction will be provided remotely. Each district will have a local district plan for this learning model.

1. All Hillsdale County School Districts agree it is our desire to return to full-time, face-to-face instruction per state health requirements. We believe that in-person learning is the best option for delivering a quality educational experience. All Hillsdale County School Districts and Public Academies will provide a high-quality remote learning option for students and families. The type of online delivery will be a local district decision.
2. The Hillsdale County School Districts and the ISD will provide top-notch resources, tools, and services. All 504 plans will be followed and all students with IEPs will be provided services according to their IEP, during in-person instruction. If a remote learning option is chosen an IEP will be held to discuss services.
3. Hillsdale County School Districts and the ISD will advance exceptional support and services for students, families, and staff to address mental wellness linked to the pandemic.
4. Hillsdale County School Districts and the ISD will agree to communicate and coordinate - to the extent possible - all pandemic-related districtwide policies or procedures. Coordination and communication on these policies is paramount in ensuring equitable access and opportunity across our region.
5. All School Districts that provide bussing will continue to do so and will follow required safety requirements from the Executive Order.
6. Food Service will be provided at all school districts that have a lunch program and will follow all required safety requirements from the Executive Order.

All Hillsdale County Schools and the ISD will follow the EXECUTIVE ORDER No. 2020-142, provision of pre-K through 12 education for the 2020–2021 school year. The Hillsdale County Preparedness Plan: Every school district and Public Academy in Hillsdale County will follow the required components of the State Road Map and can add additional safety requirements that will apply to their own district.

Personal Protective Equipment **REQUIRED**

- Facial coverings must always be worn by staff except for meals. Facial coverings may be homemade or disposable level-one (basic) grade surgical masks. Any staff members who cannot medically tolerate a facial covering must not wear one. Any staff member who is incapacitated or unable to remove the facial covering without assistance, must not wear a facial covering. If you are unable to wear a mask, please provide the appropriate/necessary documentation to the school.
- Pre-K through 5 and special education teachers should consider wearing clear masks.
- Homemade facial coverings must be washed daily.
- Disposable facial coverings must be disposed of at the end of each day.
- Facial coverings must be worn by pre-K through 12 students, staff, and bus drivers during school transportation. Any staff or student who is unable to medically tolerate a facial covering must not wear one. Any staff or student who is incapacitated or unable to remove the facial covering without assistance, must not wear one. Facial coverings may be homemade or disposable level-one (basic) grade surgical masks. If you are unable to wear a mask, please provide the appropriate/necessary documentation to the school.
- Facial coverings must always be worn in hallways and common areas by pre-K through 12 students in the building except during meals. Any student who is unable to medically tolerate a facial covering must not wear one. Any student who is incapacitated or unable to remove the facial covering without assistance, must not wear one. Facial coverings may be homemade or disposable level-one (basic) grade surgical masks. If you are unable to wear a mask, please provide the appropriate/necessary documentation to the school.
- Note: Students with significant disabilities preventing the use of facial coverings are referred to forthcoming guidance from MDE.
- Facial coverings must be worn in classrooms by all students grades 6 through 12. Any student who cannot medically tolerate a facial covering must not wear one. Any student who is incapacitated, or unable to remove the facial covering without assistance, must not wear one. If you are unable to wear a mask, please provide the appropriate/necessary documentation to the school.
- All students in grades K through 5 must wear facial coverings unless students remain with their classes throughout the school day and do not come into close contact with students in another class.

Hygiene **REQUIRED**

- Provide adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors (including soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol for safe use by staff and students, paper towels, tissues, and signs reinforcing proper handwashing techniques).
- Teach and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and/or the safe use of hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

Screening Students and Staff

REQUIRED

- Schools must cooperate with the local public health department regarding implementing protocols for screening students and staff.

Testing Protocols for Students and Staff and Responding to Positive Cases

REQUIRED

- Schools must cooperate with the local public health department regarding implementing protocols for screening students and staff.

▪

Responding to Positive Tests for Staff and Students

REQUIRED

- All schools, public and private, must cooperate with the local public health department if a confirmed case of COVID-19 is identified, and in particular, must collect the contact information for any close contacts of the affected individual from two days before he or she showed symptoms to the time when he or she was last present at the school.

Food Service, Gathering, and Extracurricular Activities

REQUIRED

- Prohibit indoor assemblies that bring together students from more than one classroom.

Athletics

REQUIRED

- Comply with all guidance published by Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) and the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS).
- Students, teachers, and staff must use proper hand hygiene techniques before and after every practice, event, or other gathering. Every participant should confirm that they are healthy and without any symptoms prior to any event.
- All equipment must be disinfected before and after use.
- Inter-school competitions may be held provided that facial coverings are worn if school transportation is provided. Buses must be cleaned and disinfected before and after every use, as detailed in the subsequent “Busing and Student Transportation” section.
- Spectators are allowed provided that facial coverings are used by observers and six feet of social distancing can be maintained at all times. Attention must be given to entry and exit points to prevent crowding.
- Each participant must use a clearly marked water bottle for individual use. There should be no sharing of this equipment.
- Handshakes, fist bumps, and other unnecessary contact must not occur.
- Indoor weight rooms and physical conditioning activities that require shared equipment is suspended. Outdoor physical conditioning activities are allowed while maintaining social distancing.
- Large scale indoor spectator events are suspended. Large scale outdoor spectator or stadium events are limited to 100 people, and people not part of the same households must maintain six feet of distance from one another.

Cleaning **REQUIRED**

- Frequently touched surfaces including light switches, doors, benches, bathrooms, must undergo cleaning at least every four hours with either an EPA-approved disinfectant or diluted bleach solution.
- Libraries, computer labs, arts, and other hands-on classrooms must undergo cleaning after every class period with either an EPA-approved disinfectant or diluted bleach solution.
- Student desks must be wiped down with either an EPA-approved disinfectant or diluted bleach solution after every class period.
- Playground structures must continue to undergo normal routine cleaning, but using an EPA-approved disinfectant is unnecessary.
- Ensure safe and correct use and storage of cleaning and disinfection products, including storing products securely away from children, and with adequate ventilation when staff use products.
- Staff must wear gloves, surgical mask, and face shield when performing all cleaning activities.

Busing and Student Transportation **REQUIRED**

- Require the use of hand sanitizer before entering the bus. Hand sanitizer must be supplied on the bus.
- The bus driver, staff, and all students in grades pre-K through 12, if medically feasible, must wear facial coverings while on the bus. Note: There may be situations where it is not safe for the bus driver to wear a facial covering. Decisions about these situations should be made on a case-by-case basis with local public health officials.
- Clean and disinfect transportation vehicles before and after every transit route. Children must not be present when a vehicle is being cleaned.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces in the vehicle (e.g., surfaces in the driver's cockpit, hard seats, arm rests, door handles, seat belt buckles, light and air controls, doors and windows, and grab handles) prior to morning routes and prior to afternoon routes.
- Clean, sanitize, and disinfect equipment including items such as car seats, wheelchairs, walkers, and adaptive equipment being transported to schools daily.
- Create a plan for getting students home safely if they are not allowed to board the vehicle.
- If a student becomes sick during the day, they must not use group transportation to return home and must follow protocols outlined above. If a driver becomes sick during the day, they must follow protocols for sick staff outlined in each district's plan and must not return to drive students.
- Weather permitting, keep doors and windows open when cleaning the vehicle and between trips to let the vehicles thoroughly air out.
- Weather permitting, consider keeping windows open while the vehicle is in motion to help reduce the spread of the virus by increasing air circulation, if appropriate and safe.

Distance/Virtual Learning

All districts will have a plan in place for students to learn via distance/virtual opportunities. If you do not plan on your children returning to your district for face-to-face instruction, please notify your district.

The Superintendents of the County's public schools are committed to your student's learning and keeping your child safe this fall. If you have questions or concerns, please contact your local district's superintendent.

Sincerely,

Troy Reehl, Superintendent, Hillsdale County ISD
Kevin Kelly, Superintendent, Camden-Frontier Schools
Shawn Vondra, Superintendent, Hillsdale Community Schools
Annie Fowler, Director, Hillsdale Preparatory School
Chellie Broesamle, Superintendent, Jonesville Community Schools
Mike Corey, Superintendent, Litchfield Community Schools
Wes Johnson, Superintendent, North Adams-Jerome Public Schools
Deanna Edens, Superintendent, Pittsford Area Schools
Chuck North, Superintendent, Reading Community Schools
Mike Potts, Superintendent, Waldron Area Schools
Colleen Vogt, Director, Will Carleton Academy