



# LUDINGTON AREA SCHOOLS

## ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

**Jason J. Kennedy**  
Superintendent

**Jesse Rickard**  
Director of Business Services

March 13, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians, and School Community:

First, thank you for your patience and understanding. The last several days have been fast paced and ever changing. This communication is the first in a series that will begin to address several of the questions and concerns that exist within our greater school community, and we hope that you find this information helpful.

### **School Closure Order**

As you likely are aware, Governor Whitmer announced that in order to slow the spread of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Michigan, she is ordering the closure of all K-12 school buildings, public, private, and boarding, to students starting Monday, March 16 until Sunday, April 5. School buildings are scheduled to reopen on Monday, April 6.

Ludington Area Schools will be closed, effective at 4:00 pm today, per the Governor's order, and will return to session on Monday, April 6, 2020. All school buildings and offices will be closed during this time; however, essential functions of the District will continue to remain in operation. Our custodial staff will use this time to increase the level of deep cleaning and disinfection that takes place, alongside the normal spring break cleaning cycle that normally occurs. This includes a deep cleaning of all of our school buses, as well. Other than those staff members that are needed for essential functions of the District, all other staff members are asked to leave District buildings by 4:00 pm today.

The Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) has directed all member schools to suspend activities in all sports for all seasons for the next three weeks in order to deter the spread of COVID-19. All athletic activities to be halted include: practices, scrimmages and competitions/games, as well as strength training, conditioning and any other organized sessions and activities in all MHSAA in-season and out-of-season sports. Athletic practices and events will be canceled starting at 4:00 pm today through the entire closure.

This school closure includes all preschool through grade twelve programs, including FiveCap's Head Start program. The closure also includes all recreation programs under the authority of Ludington Area Schools, the pool, and any adult leagues or programs that use our facilities. The District is ordering a complete closure of our schools aside from essential functions deemed necessary by the District. We apologize for this inconvenience; however, must do so to protect the safety and well-being of our entire school community.

## Food Service

The District will be providing breakfast and lunch options to students in an effort to assist families during this difficult time. The District has established locations throughout the community where our transportation and food service employees will be available. Each day, starting on Monday, March 16, 2020, the District will provide both a grab and go style lunch and a breakfast to cover the following morning for students. This will be offered through Friday, April 3, 2020. These meals will include all of the requirements of a reimbursable meal, just as students receive each day while at school. Weekend food backpacks will also be available next Friday; however, they will need to be picked up at the District Central Business Office. The District is also exploring a partnership with a local restaurant, with more details to follow. We hope that this program will assist families in our school community, but please know that the locations and times are subject to change if we find that the needs of the community are not met by this schedule. The schedule for each of the food service hub locations in the community is as follows:

<b>Route #1</b>	
<b>Location</b>	<b>Time</b>
Lakeview Elementary School	11:00 am - 11:25 am
Foster Elementary School	11:30 am - 11:55 am
Pere Marquette Early Childhood Center	12:00 pm - 12:25 pm
<b>Route #2</b>	
<b>Location</b>	<b>Time</b>
Tamarac Village: Main Entrance	11:00 am - 11:30 am
Hamlin Township Hall	11:45 am - 12:15 pm
<b>Route #3</b>	
<b>Location</b>	<b>Time</b>
Days Inn: 7576 S Pere Marquette Hwy	11:00 am - 11:30 am
Indian Summer: Parking Lot Brye Rd./Chauvez Rd.	11:45 am - 12:15 pm

## School Calendar

While the District is currently working with the Michigan Department of Education to understand the impact to our school calendar, there are many uncertainties that still exist regarding this. Here is what the District knows at this point. The State School Aid Act (SSAA) currently requires each school to provide 1,098 hours and 180 days of student instruction. The SSAA also grants forgiven time for the first six days (or the equivalent number of hours for student instruction) due to “conditions not within the control of school authorities, such as epidemics or health conditions as

defined by the city, county, or state health authorities.” Schools that have already exhausted six days for snow days or other reasons may submit an “additional forgiven time waiver” for up to three additional days. Otherwise, additional forgiven time may be available only if the Michigan Legislature passes remedial legislation specifically for this school year.

If remedial legislation is not passed by the Legislature for this school year, LASD intends to apply the remaining three (3) days of forgiven time to these days off, while also applying for the additional forgiven time waiver. This will cover six (6) instructional days of the mandated order. The District was already not scheduled for instruction on Friday, March 27, 2020. This would leave three (3) days of instruction that would need to be rescheduled, assuming that the District would be approved for the additional time waiver. Again, an act of the Legislature may result in additional forgiven time, as has been done in previous years.

### **Prevention Best Practices**

As a reminder, the Governor and the state’s medical team of experts have shared that the best prevention for viruses, such as influenza, the common cold, or COVID-19 are to:

- Wash your hands often with soap and warm water for 20 seconds. If not available, use hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or upper sleeve when coughing or sneezing.
- Avoid contact with people who are sick.
- If you are sick, stay home, and avoid contact with others.

Again, this situation is fast paced and ever changing. The District will continue to provide updates throughout the day today as the information available to us evolves; however, we wanted to get this information to our community in an effort to begin answering the many questions that exist pertaining to this state mandated school closure. Thank you for your patience in this matter and stay tuned as we continue to provide additional updates.

Respectfully,

Jason J. Kennedy  
Superintendent