



Benzie County Central Schools

February 28, 2020

Dear school families,

Following the heightened concerns over the Coronavirus (COVID-19), Benzie Central Schools and the Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District are working closely with the Grand Traverse and Benzie-Leelanau County Health Departments to communicate and help the community proactively combat the spread of respiratory infections.

At this time there are no confirmed cases of the COVID-19 in the state of Michigan. Grand Traverse County and surrounding county health departments are following guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) which is continuously updating information and resources that will minimize the risks of infection from influenza type viruses.

The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to a virus. Precautions that can help us avoid contagious viruses are generally good habits to follow. Those include:

- Frequent hand washing, for 20 seconds with soap and warm water.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, then throw the tissue away.
- Avoid touching your eyes, mouth, or nose with unwashed hands.
- Avoid contact with those who are ill.
- Stay home from work/school yourself when ill and contact your family physician for guidance.

As a matter of standard practice, our custodial staff wipe down surfaces, clean classrooms each day, disinfect bathrooms, clean floors and keep common areas sanitized. The upcoming spring break provides a reprieve in the spread of germs common in the school environment and allows our custodial staff to proceed with routine deep clearing and disinfecting of school facilities.

As we approach spring break, the CDC recommends those who plan to travel outside of the United States to check the [CDC's Traveler's Health Notices](#) for the latest guidance and recommendations for each country to which you will travel.

While the immediate risk of this new virus to the American public is believed to be low at this time, everyone can do their part to help minimize the spread of respiratory illnesses. For additional guidance, check the [CDC website](#) for all available resources and information on COVID-19.



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We will continue to keep you informed as this situation develops. Any emergency developments will be shared immediately through all of our communication channels: email, phone, text, website, and social media.

Again, there are no confirmed cases in the Traverse Bay region or Michigan, but we wish to express our appreciation to county health department officials for their partnership in guiding our school families as we work to keep our community healthy.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matt Olson'.

Matt Olson
Superintendent
Benzie County Central Schools