



LEADING
LIFETIME
LEARNING

Nicholas E. Ceglarek, Ed.D., Superintendent
Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District
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Dear Traverse Bay Area regional school community,

On behalf of a consortium of area leaders representing the medical, educational, public health and business communities of Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska and Leelanau counties, we commend the members of these communities for their perseverance and extraordinary patience as we continue to work through this pandemic. While safety remains a top priority, it is a privilege for us to witness the energy in our schools and throughout our business community the past few months. Each day, we are reminded of how critical our combined efforts are in mitigating the spread of COVID-19 and keeping our communities safe and open.

As we approach the holiday season we wish to remind everyone to remain vigilant and continue to follow guidance and safety measures from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS).

With the recent increase of positive cases across the region, health officials are urging families to consider modified holiday celebrations that are small, local, and encourage wearing of masks, social distancing, and proper hygiene practices to help slow the spread of the virus. Our goal is to stay safe, keep our schools open face-to-face, and our businesses and economy moving forward.

Below is guidance from MDHHS and the CDC to consider before, during and after a gathering to stay safe this holiday season.

- [MDHHS Celebrating the Holidays During COVID-19](#)
- [MDHHS tips on TRAVELING during the holiday season](#)
- CDC [Know Your Travel Risk](#)
- CDC [Know When to Delay Your Travel to Avoid Spreading COVID-19](#)

Our schools are ready to transition to distance learning if the need does arise, and we will continue to work in partnership and follow public health data in the months ahead. We urge you to minimize group gatherings, continue to monitor for symptoms, and practice [basic preventative measures](#) to prevent the spread of viruses such as COVID-19, influenza and the common cold.

Thank you for your continued support. Together, we **can** slow the spread of COVID-19! Best wishes for a safe and healthy holiday season.

Respectfully,

Dr. Nick Ceglarek, Traverse Bay Area ISD Superintendent with community partners listed below

Regional Health Officers

Dr. Josh Meyerson, Medical Director and Lisa Peacock, Health Officer

Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department and Health Department of Northwest MI

Kevin Huges, District Health Department #10 Health Officer

Wendy Hirschenberger, Grand Traverse County Health Department Health Officer

Dr. Michael Collins, Grand Traverse County Health Department Medical Director

Dr. Christine Nefcy, Munson Healthcare Chief Medical Officer

Regional School Leadership

Rich Satterlee, Alba Public School Superintendent

Mark Brenton, Bellaire Public Schools Superintendent

Amiee Erfourth, Benzie County Central Schools Superintendent

Jessica Harrand, Buckley Community Schools Superintendent

Mike Hill, Crawford School - Excelsior District #1 Superintendent

Julie Brown, Elk Rapids Public School Superintendent

Josh Rothwell, Forest Area Community Schools Superintendent

Jeff Tousley, Frankfort-Elberta Area Schools Superintendent

Jon Hoover, Glen Lake Community Schools Superintendent

Jim Coneset, Grand Traverse Academy Superintendent

Mike Buell, Grand Traverse Area Catholic Schools Superintendent

Robert Walker, Greenspire School Head of School/Superintendent

Trey Devey, Interlochen Center for the Arts President

Terry Starr, Kalkaska Public Schools Superintendent

Dr. Keith Smith, Kingsley Area Schools Superintendent

Arden Wilson, Leelanau Montessori Public School Academy Head of School

Stephanie Long, Leland Public Schools Superintendent

Jeff DiRosa, Mancelona Public Schools Superintendent

Sue Frost-Mayse, New Covenant Christian Academy

Darci Long, North Central Academy Principal

Neil Wetherbee, Northport Public Schools Superintendent

Renee Kolle and Danielle Clayton, Old Mission Peninsula School Principals

Lisa Medina, St. Mary Hannah School Principal

Megan Glynn, St. Mary Lake Leelanau Catholic School Principal

Casey Petz, Suttons Bay Public Schools Superintendent

Michele Shane, The Children's House Head of School

Rob Hansen, The Leelanau School Head of School

Jill Vogenski, The Pathfinder School Head of School

Dr. John VanWagoner, Traverse City Area Public Schools Superintendent

Tyler VanSchepen, Traverse City Christian School Superintendent

Kyle Smith, Trinity Lutheran School

Jeremiah Stieve, Woodland School Director

Community Leadership

Nate Alger, Grand Traverse County Administrator

Warren Call, Traverse Connect President and CEO