



Nicholas E. Ceglarek, Ed.D., Superintendent
Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District
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December 18, 2020

Dear Traverse Bay Area regional school community,

As we approach the winter holiday break, we want to take this opportunity to extend warm wishes to all school families for a happy holiday season. 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 thank you for all the positive measures you have taken to support our community in 2020. We know this has been a challenging year for everyone and we commend you for your perseverance as we continue to work through this pandemic together.

We are reaching out to you again to ask for your help in slowing the spread of COVID-19. Our community has shown incredible resilience and a willingness to support the changing dynamics of life and routine and our northwest Michigan region has benefited from the positive results. We know that following [basic safety measures](#) such as washing hands, wearing masks, and social distancing works and we encourage you to remain vigilant during the holiday season.

Safety remains a top priority, and our organizations are committed to work in partnership and using public health and other data when making decisions that impact our regional school communities. In addition, we will continue to follow state guidance and the Response and Preparedness plans of each individual district as we move ahead. Each day, we are reminded of how critically important it is to conduct education in-person and we urge families to continue to take positive steps to help mitigate the spread of germs. Measures we each take right now, such as keeping [holiday gatherings](#) small, will be the best way to protect yourself and others from getting sick, and will help support a safe return to in-person learning in the new year.

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](#)

Again, we 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 Hughes, 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

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 Vigenki, 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