



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING


GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 6, 2020

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Michael F. Rice, Ph.D., State Superintendent 

SUBJECT: Status of COVID-19 Phase Designations - MEMO #COVID-19-135

Local school districts have asked whether the phases referenced in the MI Safe Start plan and the MI Safe Schools Roadmap still exist given the October 2 Supreme Court decision that set aside the governor's emergency authority and subsequent executive orders.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) continues to use the MI Safe Start phase structure, with phases updated as the numbers associated with the COVID-19 pandemic change. All of Michigan is now in Phase 4. Schools that tied their extended COVID-19 learning plans to the phases may need to update their local operations as their regions change phases.

The state will continue using the Michigan Economic Recovery Council (MERC) regions regarding impact assessments of COVID-19 and requirements on capacity or permitted activities, driven by current epidemic data. It will also continue to publicly announce any regional distinctions tied to different phases of reopening readiness. These announcements should assist with schools and businesses that have tied their decisions to the phases.

The extended COVID-19 learning plans are required by [state law](#). State law was not set aside by the Supreme Court decision.

Local school board-adopted plans are local policy. Local school districts should comply with those plans unless or until amended by their local school boards.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors

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