



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** March 18, 2020

**TO:** Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents  
Public School Academy Directors  
Great Start Collaborative Directors and Parent Liaisons  
Early Childhood Support Networks

**FROM:** Dr. Scott M. Koenigsnecht, Deputy Superintendent  
P-20 System and Student Transitions

**SUBJECT:** Compliance Requirements for Great Start Collaboratives and Parent Coalitions funded programs and services during a Public Health Emergency

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) has received a number of inquiries regarding a mandated closure of schools due to a state or federally declared Public Health Emergency and the potential impact of such a closure on the Great Start Collaboratives (GSCs) and Great Start Parent Coalitions (GSPCs) funded trainings, services, meetings, and program compliance requirements.

Therefore, in the event of closures due to a public health emergency and/or gubernational action (as declared on March 12, 2020, effective March 16, 2020) the following situations may apply:

1. **If there is a scheduled GSC/GSPC event, training or meeting**, please adhere to [Executive Order 2020-11](#), [Executive Directive 2020-2](#), and local organizational procedures when determining to proceed as scheduled, postpone or cancel. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also has [guidance related to gatherings and community events](#) to aid in decision making. It is recommended at this time, that all events, trainings, and meetings be cancelled and/or postponed until a later time. To communicate the cancellation/postponement of scheduled events, the following language is suggested:

In accordance with Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services' [recommendations designed to help prevent the spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#), we will be canceling/postponing (insert title).

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The state is taking proactive steps to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in Michigan. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in reducing the coronavirus risk to Michigan residents.

For current and up-to-date information regarding the coronavirus, please visit <http://www.Michigan.gov/Coronavirus> or <http://www.CDC.gov/Coronavirus>.

2. **Home visitation services and/or playgroups:** Local organizational procedures and/or the recommended [Community Mitigation Strategies](#) should be followed. Home visitation programs were contacted directly by the national home visitation models with the appropriate protocol. Further guidelines are:

- **Home visitation:** Each home visitation model addresses timeline and other compliance factors based on the model guidelines. Please refer to each model's national guidance for timeline, fidelity and other compliance requirements:
  - Healthy Families America: <https://www.healthyfamiliesamerica.org/hfa-response-to-covid-19/>
  - Early Head Start: <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/blog/managing-infectious-disease>
  - Parents as Teachers: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UZepGDiWKJrMdz729iG67VZNcVEijZMt/view?usp=sharing>
  - Nurse Family Partnership: <https://www.nursefamilypartnership.org/>
- **Playgroups:** At this time, it is recommended that all in-person playgroups be postponed and/or cancelled to control and prevent the spread of the virus. Refer to each home visitation program model guidance for more information, if needed.

3. **Continuing to pay staff in the event of closures due to a Public Health Emergency and/or gubernatorial action,** is recommended for **all** GSC/GSPC, Section 32p and Section 32p(4) funded staff during the shutdown, regardless of schedule modifications, to alleviate potential financial instability and hardship for employees. Contracted staff, such as home visitors employed through a community agency, should adhere to their local organizational procedures and the [Community Mitigation Strategies](#). However, there will not be additional Section 32p or Section 32p(4) funds allocated to support that decision.

As additional situations and questions arise, districts and GSC/GSPC staff are encouraged to contact Rachel Pritchard at [pritchardR@michigan.gov](mailto:pritchardR@michigan.gov) or Rita Trinklein at [TrinkleinR@michigan.gov](mailto:TrinkleinR@michigan.gov).

cc: Michigan Education Alliance