



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING


GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 7, 2020

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

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

SUBJECT: Extension of the Epidemic Order - MEMO #COVID-19-141

In a press conference this afternoon, Governor Gretchen Whitmer and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Director Robert Gordon extended by 12 days [the epidemic order](#) that restricts indoor social gatherings and other group activities. The additional 12 days will allow more time to determine the full impact of the Thanksgiving holiday on the spread of COVID-19 across Michigan.

The order will keep existing measures in place through Dec. 20 and does not include a blanket stay-home action.

The emergency order continues to require high schools to deliver learning at a distance, with the notable exception as follows:

- Gatherings at public and nonpublic schools for the purpose of delivering career and technical education services to pupils in grades 9 through 12, but only to the extent that these activities are necessary to complete requirements for a recognized postsecondary credential and only to the extent that these activities cannot be completed remotely.

The epidemic order extension today continues the following measures:

- Gatherings at public and nonpublic schools for the purpose of conducting in-person instruction of pupils in pre-kindergarten through grade 8, subject to local health department and school district decisions on remote learning. Gatherings for the purpose of sports and extracurricular activity are prohibited.

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- Gatherings at public and nonpublic schools for the purpose of conducting in-person instruction, sports, and extracurricular activities serving pupils in grades 9 through 12 are prohibited, except for in-person instruction of pupils who are English Language Learners or students receiving special education services.
- Gatherings at public and nonpublic schools for the purpose of child care programs, tutoring and academic support, and services to students in need, including food distribution, access to internet connectivity, and physical and mental health care services.

Below are links to important information provided by MDHHS today that is useful in helping Michigan mitigate the continued spread of COVID-19, which you may share with your communities.

1. [Social Gatherings Guidance](#)
2. [Pause to Save Lives Infographic](#)
 - [Safe Social Pods Guidance](#)
 - [Key Metrics Infographic](#)
3. [FAQ](#)

cc: Michigan Education Alliance
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors