

Hello Stephenson Area Public School Community:

On June 30, 2020, Governor Whitmer published the MI Safe School Roadmap, which outlines multiple scenarios for returning to school in the fall based on current regional conditions of the Coronavirus global pandemic. The roadmap outlines guidelines for schools to develop four plans for each phase and what is required, highly recommended and recommended at each of the phases. Here is a brief summary of the differences between the phases and the plans created under the roadmap.

- Phases 1-3: Online instruction only. No in-person instruction. School grounds are closed.
- Phase 4: In-person instruction is permissible. In-person programs at school utilize high levels of safety protocol.
- Phase 5: In-person instruction is permissible, with moderate levels of safety protocols. Various protocols and personal protective equipment continue to be utilized.
- Phase 6: Full time, in-person instruction resumes with minimal to zero restrictions.

A committee of Stephenson School Employees is working hard and in collaboration with our local health department to ensure Stephenson Area Public Schools will provide safe, responsible, and responsive plans. One thing that we have learned from COVID-19 is that we must be flexible. When creating plans we must be able to move between them as our regional status changes and COVID-19 conditions improve or worsen in our area. We have placed orders to ensure we have enough PPE on hand. We are securing hand sanitizer, cleaning solutions, disinfectants and have reviewed and reinforced cleaning protocols and procedures.

We would like to thank all the students and parents who responded to our survey requests at the end of the school year. That data will allow us to continue to improve online instruction for the future. Please look for another survey in the near future. All of this information will be key in fine tuning Stephenson's four plans and ensuring we are best meeting the needs of the school community given this unprecedented situation.

We know that the community has many questions regarding the upcoming school year and we appreciate your patience as we complete this planning process. What we can tell you right now is that Stephenson Area Public Schools, while following the Governor's Roadmap, will be ready for face to face instruction. Stephenson Area Public Schools is also planning to offer an online option for families who are not ready to have their students return to face to face instruction in the fall. We aim to have these plans completed by the end of July/ early August and will share them out with the public at that time.

Thank you,
Steve Martin
Menominee County ISD Superintendent
Stephenson Area Public School Interim Superintendent

