



## **Porter Township School Corporation**

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**Office of the Superintendent**

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Dear Porter County Community,

**Closing of Porter County Schools due to COVID-19:** On March 12, 2020, Governor Holcomb released new directives to protect Hoosiers from COVID-19. As part of these steps, Governor Holcomb has provided schools with a 20-day attendance waiver to help reduce the spread of the Coronavirus throughout our state.

After careful consideration and in consultation with Porter County Health Department and other Porter County Government officials, all seven Porter County Superintendents and Porter County Education Services are taking prudent and proactive measures to avert COVID-19 taking a foothold within our schools and community. As a result, all Porter County schools will exercise an option to conduct eLearning starting March 16, 2020 through April 10, 2020. The situation is extremely fluid and the date may be extended as we reassess the situation during the duration of the closure. Porter County administrators, in consultation with the Porter County Health Department, will reconvene on April 3, 2020 to reconsider future plans.

In an effort to continue educational instruction, eLearning assignments will be posted on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Teachers will clearly communicate office hours and expectations with students/families.

### **Sports/Extracurricular Activities (as of 3/16)**

- All extracurricular activities and sporting events, including rehearsals and practices, are immediately postponed until school is reopened
- All activities/performances are postponed
- Re-scheduling of events will be determined on a case-by-case basis

### **Community Use of School Facilities**

- All school facilities, including sports courts/fields, will remain closed to the public during the school closure
- All facility rentals are cancelled or postponed until schools reopen

During this closure, we ask that if you or a member of your family are asked to self-quarantine, or if you or any member of your family tests positive for COVID-19, please contact the Porter County Health Department.

Closing school is never an easy decision. It is, however, a recommended strategy to protect the health and safety of our entire community from COVID-19, particularly the more vulnerable members of our community. This decision has been established to prevent the spread of the virus by social distancing. For this reason, we strongly recommend students and staff refrain from large gatherings or congested public settings during the closure.

As always, Porter County schools strongly encourages all students, families and staff to continue practicing good health hygiene to prevent the spread of any illness, including viruses. As the COVID-19 pandemic evolves, we will continue to keep our constituents updated via email and school websites. Please watch for further communication from your school corporation.