



Lewis Cass Intermediate School District

Learning For All...Whatever It Takes

61682 Dailey Road
Cassopolis, Michigan
49031-9648
www.lewiscassisd.org

May 10, 2021

Dear Lewis Cass ISD/Marcellus GSRP parents, staff, and community members:

Today we received notification that a staff member associated with our Great Start Readiness Program at Marcellus Elementary School tested positive for COVID-19. While we must protect the privacy of the individual involved, we believe it is best to communicate transparently with you so you can make well-informed decisions for your family. There was no exposure to the GSRP classroom or the Strong Beginnings classroom and it did not affect anyone at Marcellus Community Schools.

There is nothing more important to Lewis Cass ISD than the health, safety and wellbeing of our students, our staff, and their families. Know that we are working directly with county health officials to address this situation.

Due to severe staffing shortages, the Marcellus GSRP classroom will be closed from May 12-20, 2021 and will operate with a Remote Learning Model. The staffing situation will be reviewed on Friday, May 21, 2021 and a subsequent update will be communicated to families.

COVID-19 is transmitted through person-to-person contact and through the exchange of respiratory droplets. As more cases are being confirmed across the state, it is important to be sensible but vigilant. Symptoms of COVID-19 include: fever, cough and shortness of breath. A complete list of symptoms is available on the Van Buren Cass District Health Department website at www.vbcassdhd.org. If you or any member of your family exhibit these symptoms, please contact your medical provider for advice immediately. Symptoms usually appear 2-14 days after exposure.

Lewis Cass ISD will work with Marcellus Elementary staff to clean and disinfect surfaces inside the affected classrooms immediately. As more cases are being confirmed across the state, it is important to remain vigilant. The CDC recommends the following best practices to help prevent the spread:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available
- Avoid close contact with those who are sick
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve
- Avoid touching your eyes, mouth and nose
- Disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects
- Stay at home, if possible
- Practice social distancing, leaving at least six feet between you and other people
- Avoid gatherings that include more than 10 people.

*Equal Opportunity Employer/Programs
Auxiliary aids and services as well as written publications in alternative accessible format
are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.
Michigan Relay Center 1-800-649-3777 (Voice and TDD)*



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Our greatest priority is the safety of our students, staff and community members. Please continue to take necessary precautions to protect yourself and those around you. It is important to remember that children are greatly influenced by the reactions of adults when facing difficult circumstances. Remain calm and be empathic and respectful to those affected.

We are grateful for the opportunity to serve you and your family, especially as we face this challenging situation together. If an individual suspects they have COVID-19 symptoms, they should stay home and take one of the following steps:

- Call their primary care provider (PCP) via telephone
- Do a virtual visit with their health system/provider
- Call 9-1-1 if symptoms are life threatening

Care Advisor Phone Numbers and Webpages

Bronson	(269) 341-7788	www.bronsonhealth.com/coronavirus-covid-19
Ascension Borgess	(833) 978-0649	www.healthcare.ascension.org
Spectrum Health Lakeland	(616) 391-2380	www.spectrumhealthlakeland.org/covid19
InterCare Health Network	(855) 869-6980	www.intercare.org/covid-19.html

For the health and safety of our children,

Christine G. Whitmire
Director of Early Childhood Education

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