



Hudsonville Public Schools

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October 4, 2020

Dear Parent(s) & Guardians:

As you may have heard or read in the media, late Friday afternoon, the Michigan Supreme Court issued a decision that Governor Whitmer did not possess the authority under the Emergency Management Act to declare a state of emergency based on the COVID-19 pandemic after April 30, 2020. As a result, the Court concluded that "the executive orders issued by the Governor in response to the COVID-19 pandemic lack any basis under Michigan law."

It's only natural to be asking what this news means for our school operations since our Preparedness Plan is based on executive orders that were issued well after April 30th. At this time, Hudsonville Public Schools is not altering the health and safety protocols within our Preparedness Plan which is posted on our school district's [website](#). To be clear, face coverings will still be required for face-to-face students and staff. Soon after the decision was announced, Governor Whitmer issued a statement noting "that this ruling does not take effect for at least 21 days, and until then, my emergency declaration and orders retain the force of law."

In the coming days and weeks, we will continue to gain information regarding how Governor Whitmer's Return to School Roadmap is impacted by the court's decision. Meanwhile, I want to convey that all protocols remain in place in the classroom and in the athletic arena until further notice. While we have seen an increase in positive cases in our district, wearing masks will hopefully mitigate this spread and allow our district to remain open for students to receive in-person instruction. Without these protocols, there is a real possibility that districts will be forced into remote learning and co-curricular activities will not be able to continue.

Thank you for your continued patience as we work our way through this pandemic – together.

Sincerely,

Doug VanderJagt, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools