

Dear MTSD Families,

The health of our students, staff, families, communities and most vulnerable is of utmost importance and we support all efforts to reduce the impact of COVID-19. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released guidelines for school districts on school closures on March 13, 2020. In consideration of the unprecedented situation in Wisconsin and the nation, both the North Shore and Washington Ozaukee Public Health Departments support “medium length” school closures for schools to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in our communities.

MTSD, along with the following school districts: Brown Deer, Cedarburg, Fox Point- Bayside, Germantown, Glendale-River Hills, Grafton, Maple Dale-Indian Hill, Nicolet, Northern Ozaukee, Port Washington, Glendale River Hills, Shorewood, and Whitefish Bay will be closing for the next four weeks with the possibility of an extension.

This means that our district, along with others, will be closing for a four-week period beginning Monday, March 16, 2020, with school tentatively resuming on April 13, 2020.

Each district has an individual plan to navigate this closure. See below for additional information.

The impact of a single case in any one school in a district is extremely significant. If one student or staff member becomes infected, everyone who was in close contact will need to be quarantined for 14 days. Close contacts include anyone who spends time, within six feet, of the positive case. When considering the proximity of a school environment, the contacts and exposures grow exponentially, and quickly. We are supporting closures before community transmission is confirmed to greatly reduce further spread of the COVID-19 in the community. We recommend that you follow the CDC and Public Health Department guidelines regarding social distancing and group size for gathering.

The Mequon-Thiensville School District plan also includes the following:

- During this four-week closure teachers will continue to provide distance, virtual, and continuous learning opportunities. This time encompasses spring break and allows a 14-day, post spring break travel quarantine (as per CDC) for who may have traveled. Individuals who have travelled or come into contact over spring break will be beyond the recommended 14-day quarantine time frame and will be able to return to the district.

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- If families need access to a device at home and have access to the internet, we can provide a device. Please visit [www.mtsd.k12.wi.us/SchoolClosure](http://www.mtsd.k12.wi.us/SchoolClosure) for more information about requesting and picking up a device.
- Families that need to pick up medications or other important items from their child's school should plan to do so on Tuesday, March 17, or Wednesday, March 18 from 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- Our food service program will continue to provide meals for students as needed. Please see [www.mtsd.k12.wi.us/SchoolClosure](http://www.mtsd.k12.wi.us/SchoolClosure) for more information.
- All field trips, co-curricular programs, and Mequon-Thiensville Recreation Department programming are also suspended beginning March 14.

It should be noted that our schools were originally scheduled to be off on April 13. That has now been tentatively shifted back to a regular school day.

We will continue to keep families and staff updated. Visit [www.mtsd.k12.wi.us/SchoolClosure](http://www.mtsd.k12.wi.us/SchoolClosure) for information and answers to frequently asked questions.

Sincerely,

Matthew Joynt, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

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