



October 4, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians, Students and Staff:

We hope this message finds you and your families healthy and safe. As you know, educational plans around the state of Michigan remain very fluid due to COVID-19 pandemic. Changes continue to occur as we respond to new directives from the Governor's Office, the Michigan Department of Education and the various Health Departments.

Late Friday afternoon, October 2, the Michigan Supreme Court issued a decision that Governor Whitmer did not possess 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." 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."

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. It is not fair to our parents and students who made their decision for in-person school or remote learning, based on those orders, to change the procedures on this short of notice. For the safety of our students and staff, at this time the Jackson County ISD is not altering the health and safety protocols within our Preparedness Plan, which is posted at <https://www.jcisd.org/Page/2817>. To be clear, face coverings will still be required for face-to-face students and staff.

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, we want to convey that all protocols remain in place until further notice.

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

Sincerely,

Kevin Oxley
Jackson County ISD Superintendent