



# Ashley Community Schools

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*"One Town, One School, One Family"*

Traci Gavenda, Superintendent/K-12 Principal  
Marty Cartwright, Dean of Students/Athletic Director

September 23, 2020

Dear Ashley Bear Families,

All local districts within the Gratiot-Isabella Intermediate School District are working in conjunction with Dr. Morse, the Medical Director for District Health Department 10, Mid-Michigan District Health Department, and the Central Michigan District Health Department to provide the safest school environments possible.

**Under direction from Dr. Morse, the following changes are being made to our protocols and procedures for students exhibiting symptoms at school:**

In an attempt to reduce COVID-19 exposures, students with any of the following symptoms (new/different/worse from baseline of any chronic illness) will be required to be excluded from school:

- Temperature 100.4 or above or signs of fever (chills/sweating)
- Sore throat
- New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing
- Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain
- New onset of severe headache

While all or any of these symptoms could be the result of pre-existing conditions or other illnesses, Gratiot and Isabella counties are considered to be higher risk for community spread of COVID-19 according to the MI Safe Start Map. As such, extra precautions are necessary. If a student is excluded from school for any of the symptoms listed above, the student should see a health care provider for further evaluation and/or be tested for COVID-19 (testing sites can be found at [www.mi.gov/coronavirustest](http://www.mi.gov/coronavirustest) or by calling 211). Unless the student was a close contact to someone with COVID-19, the student may return to school if they test negative for COVID-19 or their healthcare provider diagnoses them with another cause for their symptoms. If the student tests positive for COVID-19 or is not able to provide another diagnosis from a healthcare provider, they must remain out of school for at least ten days since the symptoms first appeared and at least 24 hours without fever (without fever-reducing medicine) and symptoms have improved.

To assist you in understanding the process required to return to school, a flowchart has been included with this letter. The change in the process is circled on the flowchart. We are required to proceed to "YES" for all COVID-19 symptoms listed above. These protocols will remain in place until we receive direction from the MMDHD to proceed differently.

Please help us as we work to implement these screening requirements. Thank you for your assistance and understanding as we continue in our efforts to offer in-person learning during these challenging, but rewarding times.

Sincerely,

Traci Gavenda, Superintendent/K-12 Principal  
Ashley Community Schools