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Dear CTC families,

In anticipation of the coming school year, we know there are many questions regarding what school will look like for your student. Since May, school administrators and experts from all areas of our organization have been working hard to prepare for a successful return to teaching and learning. This message is intended to keep you informed as we near the start of the 2020-21 school year.

On June 30, Governor Whitmer released the [MI Safe Schools: Michigan's 2020-21 Return to School Roadmap](#) developed by the governor's Return to School Advisory Council and the COVID -19 Task Force on Education. Accompanying this RoadMap, [Executive Order 2020-142](#) was issued which details the requirement for schools to develop extensive plans guiding the return to school this fall, outlining our preparedness and response for safety, mental and social-emotional well-being, instruction, and operations during each phase of the Michigan [MI Safe Start Plan](#). All schools must have their Return to School Plans approved by their Board of Education.

We are so fortunate to have a collaborative relationship with county health officials, school administrators, and educators from all areas of our organization working to strengthen our TBAISD Return to School Plan. Every effort is being made to ensure the health and safety of everyone in our school community.

At the present time, the Traverse Bay region is in Phase 5 of the Governor's Safe Start Plan. If we remain in Phase 5, TBAISD Career-Tech Center will welcome students and staff back to school for in-person instruction with significant adjustments in safety protocols. If the Governor moves the Traverse Bay region to Phase 4, TBAISD Career-Tech Center will adjust to a blended school format. Our first day of instruction is set for Wednesday, September 9 for our CTC programs. It is important to note that, although we are currently planning to reopen school this fall, there is still the possibility of needing to close a classroom, school building or the district due to an outbreak of illness. These decisions will always be made under the guidance of the health department. If our region enters Phases 1-3 or experiences an outbreak, our staff are fully prepared to transition to remote learning. Either way, our plans will be comprehensive and address how to provide the highest level of education given the dynamic nature of the environment.

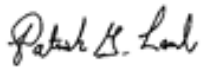
As schools prepare to reopen in the fall, it is still important to follow preventative hygiene practices. The best prevention for viruses like COVID-19, influenza, and the common cold is to:

- Wash your hands often with soap and warm water for 20 seconds. If not available, use hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or upper sleeve when coughing or sneezing.
- Avoid contact with people who are sick.
- If you are sick, stay home, and avoid contact with others.
- Stay at least six feet away from others when in a public setting.
- Replace handshakes with a friendly wave from six feet away.

While some families may have concerns about their student returning to school, please know we will do our very best to protect our students and staff as we follow detailed and appropriate guidelines from health officials. We understand the complexity and the challenges ahead of us, and we will be ready to face those together.

Our Return to School Roadmap will outline our preparedness and response to safety, operations, wellness, and instruction for reopening school, and will be posted on our TBAISD website (www.tbaisd.org) after Board of Education approval on or before August 17, 2020. We will follow up with more information and provide opportunities for your feedback in the coming weeks. If you have questions about returning to school, please feel free to contact Patrick Lamb, Assistant Superintendent/Principal, 231-922-6260, plamb@tbaisd.org.

Respectfully,



Patrick Lamb
Assistant Superintendent of Career & Technical
Education and Community Outreach

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