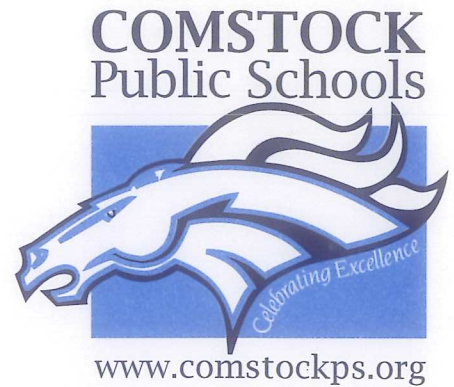


# CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

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February 23, 2017

Dear Parents & Guardians,



The Comstock Public Schools closed on Thursday, February 23, 2017 in response to a significant level of students and staff being ill with either the Norovirus or Influenza-Like-Illness (ILI). During the past several weeks the Kalamazoo County Health Department has seen increased rates of both viruses with schools, hospitals, and daycares being acutely affected. The students and staff of Comstock Public Schools were being hit particularly hard this past week.

There were several factors that went into my decision to close school. The main and most important factor is the health and safety of students. In addition to an exceptionally high student/staff absenteeism rate, the number of students who were coming to school ill and infecting other students was high enough to cause me concern. Additionally, we had numerous staff who were coming to school ill because there were not enough substitute teachers to cover the need county-wide. They felt that if they did not come to school, students would not be adequately supervised.

The Norovirus is especially contagious. The Health Department reports that Norovirus is a highly contagious virus spread through casual contact or airborne particulates. The symptoms include nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain and diarrhea, the symptoms usually last 24-48 hours.

The ILI has symptoms similar to Influenza; however, the symptoms last a shorter period of time and are typically less severe. The duration of ILI varies by patient. ILI is also highly contagious.

During the period of Thursday, February 23, 2017 through Sunday, February 26, 2017, (Friday February 24 was already a scheduled day off for Mid-Winter break) the district will be thoroughly disinfecting all of our buildings. The process involves using Department of Health prescribed disinfectants and protocols. The ultimate goal of the disinfecting process is to have a fresh start for Monday, February 27, 2017.

If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at [morat@comstockps.org](mailto:morat@comstockps.org) or (269) 250-8907.

With Colt Pride!



Todd D. Mora  
Superintendent