

Office of the Prosecuting Attorney

Caro, Michigan

PRESS RELEASE

Good Afternoon,

The events that unfolded in Oxford this past Tuesday were truly tragic and heartbreaking for all of us. Our thoughts and prayers remain with all of the victims, their families and everyone impacted by this horrendous event. The Oxford incident is now affecting our ability locally to teach and provide a safe learning experience for your child.

Out of an abundance of caution, it has been decided that all public schools in Tuscola County will be closed for Friday, December 3, 2021. In addition to all classroom sessions, all events in the schools will be cancelled until Monday morning. For the safety of everyone, we will re-evaluate the situation Sunday afternoon to make a determination for Monday.

This decision was extremely difficult to make and done so only after careful and meticulous deliberation. Due to the large number of rumors circulating around social media involving weapons and/or plans of violence against several schools within Tuscola County this determination has been reached.

The Superintendents of the county, local law enforcement as well as the Tuscola County Prosecutor are asking each parent to please take the time and talk with your child about the incident that occurred in Oxford and the consequences of these subsequent posts. Please emphasize the disruptions to the school environment and extraordinary strain that is being placed on local law enforcement that is trying to investigate each of them.

Whereas no credible threat has yet to be identified the sheer volume of information being shared on multiple social media platforms dictates that these steps be taken.

Several resources are available in helping parents in talking with their children with that needed conversation and can be found at the following websites:

- Tuscola ISD Caring for Students Facebook Page:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/4137246379669505>

- Tuscola Behavioural Health Systems:
<https://tbhsonline.com/index.php/mental-health-first-aid/samhsa-resources-for-traumatic-events>
- National Association of School Psychologists-Talking to Children about Violence, Tips for Parents and Teachers:
https://www.nasponline.org/Documents/Resources%20and%20Publications/Handouts/Safety%20and%20Crisis/Talking_To_Children_About_Violence.pdf
- National Association of of School Psychologists - Infographic:
https://www.nasponline.org/Documents/Resources%20and%20Publications/Resources/Talking_to_Children_About_Violence_Infographic_FINAL.pdf

In the event that your child knows anything about any potentially harmful event we are asking that you pass this information to local law enforcement directly or anonymously via OK2SAY. Contact can be made with OK2SAY can be made via phone: 855-565-2729, text: 652729, or email: OK2SAY@mi.gov

Conversely, the consequences of any false threats should also be explained. Under Michigan Law anyone who commits a False Report or Threat of Terrorism is subject to penalties that include 20 years and/or \$20,000 as well as reimbursement for expenses incurred from the violation. Likewise Using a Computer to Commit a Crime in certain instances also contains a 20 year maximum penalty.

The safety of your children remains our highest priority and focus. Please rest assured all steps are being taken to investigate in a coordinated manner all information that is being received.

Further information will be released on Sunday afternoon about the status of schools going back in session for Monday, December 6, 2021.