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March 6, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As you are likely aware, a new strain of coronavirus called SARS-CoV-2 has been causing more and more cases of an illness referred to as COVID-19 in many places of the world. For most, it is like a common cold; however, some have been much sicker and a small percentage have died. So far, no cases have occurred in Michigan, but we are preparing and watching the situation very closely. Your school district is working closely with us at the District Health Department #10, as well as the state health department, their local Regional Education School District/Intermediate School District, and the Michigan Department of Education to be prepared in case this situation worsens.

At this time, the risk of COVID-19 to the general public in Michigan is very low. It is still important to practice everyday illness prevention to help us all stay healthy.

**The everyday prevention recommendations are:**

- Stay at home when you are sick.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth, especially with unwashed hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
  - Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
  - Use your sleeve or inner elbow if a tissue isn't available.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a household disinfectant spray or wipe, or a mixture of 2 Tbs. bleach in a gallon of water.
- Wearing a mask is not recommended for healthy members of the community.

For those traveling, students and staff, like other travelers, returning from high risk locations will be screened and educated at the airport or cruise ship when they arrive back in the United States. They will be educated if they need to self-quarantine. Depending on the location visited, their local health department will be notified and the health department will handle their monitoring and authorizing them when they can safely return to school. The schools will not need to be involved in any traveler screening. We will continue to encourage students and staff to go home if they are sick from any illness and stay home until they are fully recovered.

For more information on traveling, visit: [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html) and [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/faqs.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/faqs.html). Further updates will be provided as the situation changes. Additional resources can be found at [www.dhd10.org/coronavirus](http://www.dhd10.org/coronavirus), as well as [www.michigan.gov/coronavirus](http://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus) and [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus).

To Your Health,

Jennifer Morse, MD, MPH, FAAFP  
Medical Director  
District Health Department #10