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Dear Parent or Guardian,

March 24, 2020

This letter is to inform you that a child at your child(ren)'s school is a close contact of a laboratory-confirmed case of novel coronavirus (COVID-19). This potential exposure has been identified through case investigation of a laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 case of a Huron County resident. Due to this possible exposure, we ask that you be on the lookout for the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 in your child(ren) for the next several days. Symptoms include fever, cough, and shortness of breath and potentially others such as headache, diarrhea and sore throat. Please note that not everyone will get all of these symptoms. If you believe your child may have COVID-19, contact his or her primary care doctor for direction. COVID-19 testing is currently very limited and reserved for those who are most severely ill. Most people who are mildly or moderately ill with COVID-19 will be able to safely recover at home.

It is important to recognize that there is now community spread of COVID-19 throughout Ohio. People have been infected with the virus in our area, including some who are not sure how or where they became infected. While this instance is one possible exposure, your family members may have many others depending on their history of activity in the community over the last few weeks. In general, COVID-19 spreads:

- Mainly from person-to-person contact. This occurs between people who are within about 6 feet of one another and through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. People are thought to be the most contagious when they are the sickest, but some spread might be possible before people show symptoms.
- It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own nose, mouth, or possibly their eyes.

To help stop the spread of COVID-19, we urge you to take the following precautions:

- The best way to prevent illness is to avoid more possible exposures to COVID-19. Following the *Stay at Home Order* set forth by the Director of the Ohio Department of Health, avoiding close contact with people who are sick and general social distancing guidelines will help you prevent further exposure.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds (or use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not readily available).
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover coughs and sneezes using the inside of your elbow.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily.
- Be on the lookout for signs and symptoms of COVID-19. If a family member is sick, keep them home, except to get medical care. Be sure to get care if you feel worse or think it is an emergency. If you need to seek care, call ahead to let them know that you may have been exposed to a symptomatic contact of a laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 case. Wear a facemask if you are sick when you are around other people.

Please continue to use reputable sources for information about COVID-19. These sources include www.huroncohealth.com/coronavirus2019, www.coronavirus.ohio.gov, and www.cdc.gov. The Ohio Department of Health also has a coronavirus hotline for general questions: 1-833-427-5634.

Thank you,

Timothy Hollinger, MPH

Timothy Hollinger, MPH, Health Commissioner
Huron County Public Health

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