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March 10, 2020

Dear Parent or Guardian:

The Dearborn and Ohio County school systems met with Dearborn and Ohio County Public Health Department officials to plan and prepare for the possibility of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) within our school community. This letter provides general information and prevention recommendations to raise awareness of COVID-19 and everyday actions everyone can take to prevent the spread of illness.

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. The virus that causes COVID-19 is thought to spread mainly between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet) through respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs or sneezes. 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 mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends everyday preventive measures to control the spread of COVID-19. These include:

- Staying home when sick and avoiding close contact with sick people. Do not return to school until your child is 24 hour symptom-free. Symptoms are “flu-like” and include fever, headache, muscle aches and pains, sore throat and cough. Children may also have earaches, nausea and vomiting.
- Frequent, proper hand washing using soap and water for at least 20 seconds or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoiding touching your mouth, nose or eyes with unwashed hands.
- Practicing respiratory etiquette (e.g., covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue or upper sleeve).
- Routinely cleaning and disinfecting frequently-touched surfaces using usual cleaning/disinfectant products according to the product label.

If a parent suspects their child may have symptoms, we do ask you to call your school nurse to make a report and contact your doctor to be tested.

As COVID-19 continues to spread internationally, families may have questions about upcoming travel. The CDC has issued no official recommendations regarding domestic travel at this time.

All travelers should practice general preventive measures. Regarding international travel, the CDC recommends avoiding nonessential travel to countries with a CDC level 3 health notice. Additionally, anyone returning from travel to countries with a CDC level 3 travel health notice will be instructed to self-quarantine for 14 days. Additional information as well as a list of countries with health advisories, is available at Coronavirus Disease 2019 Information for Travel - CDC

Families considering international travel should keep in mind that this situation is rapidly evolving. International travel to areas where COVID-19 is spreading may result in delays or possibly quarantine if travel recommendations change while abroad. If you do travel internationally, you will be notified if any action needs to be taken upon your return to the United States.

More information about COVID-19 is available at:

<https://www.in.gov/isdh/28470.htm>
www.cdc.gov/covid-19

It is all of the school corporations' goal to provide a continuity of education to our students even when a case of COVID-19 is identified in our communities. The school corporations will continue to follow all guidelines provided to us by our local, state and federal health officials.

School administrators have discussed the possible need for relaxed attendance policies if confirmed cases are identified in our communities. These policies will be decided by each individual school corporation.

Across all schools, staff are working to disinfect classrooms and common areas as well as remind students of proper hygiene. Custodians are giving extra attention to high traffic areas and things like doorknobs, phones, light switches and keyboards. School nurses are also watching for symptoms associated with the virus.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Jackson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Andrew Jackson
Superintendent