March 12, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians:

While there have been no cases identified in Genesee County, it has been reported that there are now two presumptive positive cases of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in southeast Michigan. We realize that this news, although anticipated, heightens our sense of concern regarding the impact that the virus may have on our community. The purpose of this communication is to reassure you that we have preparedness plans in place and are in constant communication with our state and local health officials regarding this issue.

As I shared in my letter last week, we have initiated the following procedures:

- Enhanced cleaning protocols in classrooms, offices, meeting facilities, and buses.
- Increased access to disinfectant wipes and hand sanitizers.
- Age-appropriate posters reminding students and adults of the importance of hand-washing and personal hygiene in each of our schools and buildings.

We are urging you to implement these same procedures at home and in the community. Specifically, as recommended by the CDC, in the attached “Share Facts about COVID-19,” we urge you to:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

Again, we are encouraging parents and guardians to keep a child at home if they have any signs and/or symptoms as outlined in the attached fact sheet AND to communicate their absence with the school. Schools across Genesee County have a process in place to communicate student illness with the Genesee County Health Department, in an effort to coordinate the prevention and spread of illness.

We realize that this is a rapidly changing situation, and as such, we will continually communicate and update any changes with all stakeholders across our community, utilizing our website: www.geneseeisd.org. This site will provide access to important information, specific to your child’s program and services.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lisa A. Hagel, Superintendent
Diseases can make anyone sick regardless of their race or ethnicity.

People of Asian descent, including Chinese Americans, are not more likely to get COVID-19 than any other American. Help stop fear by letting people know that being of Asian descent does not increase the chance of getting or spreading COVID-19.

Some people are at increased risk of getting COVID-19.

People who have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or people who live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread are at an increased risk of exposure.

Someone who has completed quarantine or has been released from isolation does not pose a risk of infection to other people.

For up-to-date information, visit CDC’s coronavirus disease 2019 web page.

You can help stop COVID-19 by knowing the signs and symptoms:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

Seek medical advice if you develop symptoms AND have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19.

There are simple things you can do to help keep yourself and others healthy.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

For more information: www.cdc.gov/COVID19