Mark A. Pfister, MSES, LEHP
Executive Director

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January 28, 2020

Dear Lake County Parent/Guardian,

The Lake County Health Department is working with federal, state, and local agencies to monitor the novel (new) coronavirus (2019-nCoV). We have been working with our partners to share key information about the virus with travelers returning from China, healthcare providers, and residents.

The 2019-nCoV virus was first identified in Wuhan City, China. Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses found among animals. Rarely, a strain of coronavirus in animals may change and spread to humans. This is what happened with the current strain. The virus may spread from person to person through the air when an infected person sneezes, coughs, or speaks.

Coronaviruses usually cause mild to moderate upper-respiratory illness, like the common cold. Symptoms may include fever, cough, or shortness of breath. If you develop symptoms after travel to Wuhan City, China or after exposure to someone known to be infected with the 2019-nCoV virus, please call your doctor for evaluation.

Currently, the Lake County Health Department believes the immediate risk to the public remains low. Lake County residents, students, visitors, and workers **do not** need to change their behavior or use masks or gloves.

Follow these tips to reduce your risk of an infection caused by any virus:
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- If no tissue is available, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve or elbow, not your hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid contact with people who are sick.
- If you are sick, stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that may contain germs.

Sincerely,

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