



DATE: September 14, 2020

TO: Parents/Guardians at Keewahdin Elementary, Fort Gratiot Middle and Port Huron Northern High School

FROM: Annette Mercatante, MD, MPH, Medical Health Officer of St. Clair County Health Dept.
Jamie Cain, Superintendent of Port Huron Schools

RE: Case Identification and Instructional Model Change

St. Clair County Health Department (SCCHD) has identified and confirmed a small number of cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) at Port Huron Northern, Fort Gratiot Middle and Keewahdin Elementary schools. As a precaution, both the Health Dept. and Port Huron Schools have determined the best course of action is to transition from hybrid to 100% remote learning at these three schools for a 14 day period. **Beginning tomorrow, Tuesday, September 15, all PHN, FGMS and Keewahdin hybrid students will not physically report to the building.** Instead, they will work remotely using their district-provided Chromebooks and Schoology, our district learning management system. Beginning Wednesday, September 16, buildings will be opened on a limited basis for students to pick up materials and receive scheduled support from staff. More details regarding building access will come from your principal. Extracurriculars will continue unless you are contacted by your coach, director or sponsor.

We will continue to provide meal service to all students during this time. Five days of breakfast and lunch will be provided at Port Huron Northern to all students in front of the Performing Arts Center. Pick up times for this week are Tuesday, September 15, 9 to 11 a.m. OR 5 to 7 p.m.

SCCHD and Port Huron Schools are working together to identify potential close contacts to reduce further exposure. Close contacts are defined as individuals that were within six feet of an infected person for 15 minutes or more. According to the SCCHD, "The fast action and procedures at Port Huron Schools have greatly decreased the likelihood of spread and have provided us with the ability to react quickly to the few identified cases."

As a reminder, symptoms of COVID-19 can include: fever, cough, shortness of breath, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, runny or stuffy nose, loss of taste or smell, abdominal pain. There are many things that can be done to keep our schools, homes and communities "COVID-19 free" and protect ourselves and our loved ones:

- Children and adults should stay home when ill
- Washing hands often with soap and running warm water for at least 20 seconds. If a hand washing station is not available, use hand sanitizer properly. Gels, rubs and hand wipes work well against COVID-19 if they contain at least 60% alcohol. Throw wipes in the trash after use.
- Practice good respiratory etiquette, including covering a cough or sneeze.