March 12, 2020

Morley Stanwood Family,

As I mentioned in a previous letter about COVID-19 we are taking this very seriously, and are relying on the State and the Health Department for guidance and information. We are also going to have to rely on each other. I can pass on information to all of you, and you can read and listen to it on the news, but we have to work together to keep each other informed. That is the purpose of this letter. To provide an update and to stay in touch with all of you.

Morley Stanwood Schools value the trust you place in us every day as part of the community. To that end, I want to share with you some of the steps we’ve been taking for the health and safety of our students, our staff and all of you.

We are following the guidance of health experts, such as the Department of Health, in responding to this virus. While we take great pride in our high standards of cleanliness we’re going to continue to look for ways and methods to improve.

Here is how you can help. Just like the winter flu season, I am asking you to keep your children home if they are not feeling well. It may be prudent to keep all of your children home even if only one or two are not feeling well. Sickness spreads easily, and if one family member is sick it would be reasonable to conclude that others are carrying the illness. If your children become sick at school, we will contact you to pick them up. Morley Stanwood Schools is reinforcing this same action plan with our employees, in that they should stay home as well if they aren’t feeling well

Another way that you can help us is to your children about some of the following simple things they can do to help keep themselves safe and healthy as well as others. Here are some good recommendations and strategies that were sent out today from the State: To slow the spread of COVID-19 in Michigan, following are some of the mitigation strategies are being recommended:

- **Learn** about the signs and symptoms of COVID-19, which include fever, cough and difficulty breathing.
- **STAY HOME WHEN YOU ARE SICK**, and Individuals at risk of severe illness should consider staying at home to avoid others who are sick.
• **Wash** your hands properly...with soap and water scrubbing vigorously for 20 to 30 seconds....or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and warm water are not available.
• **Always** cover coughs or sneezes with a tissue or sleeve.
• **Avoid** close contact with people who are sick.
• **Avoid** touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
• **Clean** regularly and disinfect frequently touched surfaces, such as doorknobs, keyboards, cell phones and light switches.
• Be sure to maintain a supply of medications, food, and other essentials in your house.
• If you care for a loved one living in a care facility, monitor the situation, ask about the health of the other residents frequently, and know the protocol if there is an outbreak.

I am asking parents to talk to their children about having no contact with others at school; that's physical contact. Let me explain. Holland Public Schools for example has implemented a school wide “contact-free zone” to help combat the spread of any contagious diseases. Literally this means no hand holding, don’t touch each other’s faces, and strictly keep your hands to yourselves.

We don’t want to take any chances spreading anything any further. We are doing our best to be prepared, to be preventive and to plan ahead, but we can’t do it alone. Please help us make sure that every situation is covered. Again, let me remind you that we are working closely with the Mecosta County Department of Health to provide the safest environment for all and will continue to provide you updates as we receive them.

Sincerely,

Roger Cole, Superintendent