

Dear Parent/Guardian

March 11, 2020

To ensure student and staff safety at school, Portage Lakes Career Center is working closely with Akron Children's Hospital, the Summit County Health Department, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to provide parents/guardians with the most current and accurate information regarding the Coronavirus, also known as COVID-19.

The 2019 novel strain of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) causing the current outbreak impacts respiratory illness, with initial symptoms including fever, cough, and difficulty breathing. With studies still taking place, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) believes at this point that COVID-19 is believed to be spread via respiratory droplets (just like the flu.)

With the safety of our students and staff as our top concern, Portage Lakes Career Center wants you to know that our district will continue to work with local, state, and national health agencies on prevention and district management in the event of a COVID-19 virus outbreak in our school and/or community. We are currently receiving health care guidance and recommendations with daily updates provided by Akron Children's Hospital, the Summit County Health Department, The Ohio Department of Health (ODH), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC.)

With the Coronavirus (COVID-19) being a rapidly evolving situation, please note that we here at Portage Lakes Career Center are putting in place a number of proactive measures to protect the health and safety of all students and staff. Portage Lakes Career Center is committed to taking precautionary measures to prevent the spread of infection and illness in our school. We have an emergency preparedness plan in the event of a respiratory illness outbreak, including procedures on screening ill students, supported by district approved Akron Children's Hospital policies and procedures. Please note that our custodial staff will continue to sanitize the building each day, and are equipped with the appropriate amount of disinfectants to clean classrooms and common areas.

The current recommended precautions to avoid exposure to the virus are the same precautions you would take to avoid the flu. Here are some ways to keep your family safe:

- *Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer (CDC recommendation is AT LEAST 60% alcohol-based).*
- *Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.*
- *Avoid close contact with people who are sick.*
- ***Stay home when you are sick and do not return to work or school until you have been fever-free without the use of fever reducing medication for at least 24 hours.***

- *Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue and then throw the tissue in the trash; if tissues aren't available, cough or sneeze into the inside of your elbow.*
- *Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.*

There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19. However, to prevent influenza and unnecessary evaluation for COVID-19, all persons over the age of 6 months should receive and annual flu vaccine; vaccination is still available and effective in preventing influenza.

It is important to keep your student home if they are ill, and contact a doctor for guidance on health-related concerns. We will be continuing our partnerships with public health expert, and updating you when relevant information is available. You may find additional information here:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Ohio Department of Health: <https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-our-programs/Novel-Coronavirus/Resources-for-the-Public/>

Summit County Health Department: <https://www.scph.org/covid-19>

Portage Lakes Career Center: www.plcc.edu link to Akron Children's Hospital Frequently Asked Questions: <https://www.akronchildrens.org/pages/2019-Novel-Coronavirus-Frequently-Asked-Questions.html>

Ohio Department of Health: Open Call Center: 1-833-4-ASK-ODH Open 7 days a Week 9:00 am -8:00 pm.

Thank you for your time and consideration in keeping our students and staff healthy and safe.

Sincerely,

Kim Redmond

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Portage Lakes Career Center
Superintendent

Michael Kaschak

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