



October 15, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

As we deal with an increasing number of COVID-19 cases in Ottawa County, you may be called upon by the school system to determine if symptoms exhibited by students or staff members are secondary to COVID-19, or if they represent another clinical entity. Because of the significant clinical and public health implications, any student or teacher who is referred to you to rule out COVID-19 will require a school readmission note that:

- (1) states that the individual has been evaluated and is not considered to have COVID-19
- (2) gives medical permission for the individual to return to school
- (3) gives a specific return date
- (4) is signed or countersigned by an MD or DO

Also, I have been asked to remind you that physicians and hospitals are required by Michigan law to report all COVID-19 cases and deaths to the local health department. Deaths that occur in a health facility must be reported within 2 hours if they occur between 8 AM and 5PM and no later than 10 AM if they occur between 5PM and 8AM. Additionally, prior to releasing an individual's remains to a funeral home, the funeral director must be notified that the individual had COVID-19.

Thank you in advance for your assistance. If you have any further questions, please contact me. Stay healthy!

Sincerely,

Paul A. Heidel, MD, MPH
Medical Director
Ottawa County Department of Public Health