March 12, 2020

Subject: COVID-19 Update and Guidance

I am contacting you today with an update on the COVID-19 pandemic. Quick and continued action during a disease outbreak slows the speed at which the disease spreads and reduces the overall number of those who become ill. The phases of pandemic mitigation include Containment, Community Mitigation, and Pandemic management. Currently Minnesota is in the Containment phase, however this could change rapidly. This website has more specific information regarding these phases.

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/mdh.html#pan>

As of today March 12, 2020 there are nine cases of COVID-19 in Minnesota. Public Health is asking if your organization has Continuity of Government (COG) and/or a Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) in place. Now is the perfect time to pull your department heads and supervisors together to review a plan, and to encourage your employees to be prepared and trained three deep if possible. I have included links to CDC and MDH website for resources for you, and I encourage you to follow our Public Health Facebook page for updates as well. The information on these sites is the most accurate and up to date, and they contain resources for businesses, families, and individuals.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/index.html>

Please keep in mind this situation is changing rapidly. Check back to these websites often for updated information. Our goal is to get accurate timely information out to our community partners to help prevent promote and protect our communities.

Sincerely,

Tammy Fiedler, PHN
Wabasha County Public Health