October 14, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Late this morning, school officials were informed that an Avoca CSD staff member tested positive for COVID-19. The individual has not been in school since October 9, 2020 and school remains open for instruction at this time.

The district’s COVID-19 Coordinator and school leaders have been working closely with their Medical Director, Dr. Werner Brammer and officials at the Steuben County Department of Health as they immediately began conducting their contact tracing protocols. The Department of Health (DÖH) has reached out to all contacts and advised on the need to isolate and to arrange testing of those potentially exposed. DOH officials have indicated it is unlikely there would be a need to quarantine students.

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and other privacy laws restrict school district officials from disclosing or confirming any personally identifiable information. Thus, we cannot identify by name anyone who has tested positive. The staff member who tested positive is in isolation and will not return to school until cleared by the DOH.

This notification to parents and our community at large is part of our commitment to keep you informed during these uncertain times. We will be conducting additional disinfecting and deep cleaning in response to the positive case.

We are proud of the efforts of all of our students, staff and families as you’ve consistently gone above and beyond to follow our safety protocols in school. Please continue to conduct at-home screenings and maintain personal awareness of COVID symptoms for your children.

Sincerely,

Superintendent