CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 16, 2020*

**Current Vigo County Surveillance:**

**General**

* **Total Confirmed Cases in Vigo County:** 0
* **Total Active Cases in Vigo County: 0**
* **Total Recovered Cases in Vigo County:** 0
* **Total Deaths in Vigo County: 0**

Confirmed cases include presumptive positive cases

Active cases = total confirmed –total recovered – total deaths.

**Hospitals**

**Regional Hospital**: Beginning Tuesday, March 17, no visitors will be permitted at Terre Haute Regional Hospital.

Exceptions will be considered in the following areas where a patient may receive 1 visitor, over the age of 16, who must pass the screening process:

• Emergency Room
• Pediatrics
• Labor & Delivery
• Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)
• Outpatient Surgery
• Infusion Center
• Radiation Oncology

**Union Health**:  Union Health will begin suspending all non-urgent elective surgeries and procedures starting March 18 through the end of April. This includes Union Hospital, Union Hospital Clinton and the Wabash Valley Surgery Center. The mission is to decrease the exposure of the COVID-19 virus to its patients and staff, as well as preserve vital resources to combat the global pandemic. The suspension is in conjunction as a directive from Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb.

The COVID-19 Hotline has proven to be a success with more than 100 calls received in its first day of operation. The hotline was created to streamline any COVID-19 related questions/concerns or those needing guidance on how to avoid getting sick, as well as home care instructions if they were to get ill. The hotline is open from 7 a.m. – 7 p.m., 7 days a week. It is being manned by healthcare professionals.

**COVID-19 Hotline # - 812.238.4871**

**Higher Education**

Indiana State University: Indiana State University’s latest information for campus and the public is on a web page: [www.indstate.edu/covid-19](http://www.indstate.edu/covid-19).

Rose Hulman: Rose-Hulman’s latest announcement and actions can be found at <https://www.rose-hulman.edu/about-us/community-and-public-services/health/index.html>.

This update includes moving spring break to this next week, the transition to online courses after spring break, domestic non-essential travel restrictions, cancelation of large campus events, and more.

Saint Mary of the Woods: <https://www.smwc.edu/offices-resources/offices/health-services-clinic/covid-19/>

**VCSC**

VIGO COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION TO CLOSE THROUGH APRIL 3

Closure will include spring break

TERRE HAUTE, IN—In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Vigo County School Corporation will close at least through April 3. The decision to close was made in collaboration with the Vigo County Health Department.

“This a collaborative decision, based on the needs to protect the health of students, staff, and our community,” said Joni Wise, administrator, Vigo County Health Department. “While children may have less of an impact from COVID-19, school closure will help protect older adults who care for grandchildren.”

The closure includes spring break. The Vigo County School Corporation will utilize eight waiver days announced yesterday by Governor Holcomb for March 16-25. The Vigo County School Corporation is not using the At-Home e-Learning Packets that were sent home for e-Learning at this time, but will reserve them for any future needs.

The Vigo County School Corporation will continue to monitor the spread of COVID-19 in collaboration with the Vigo County Health Department. As the situation evolves, the Vigo County School Corporation will communicate new developments regarding school closure.

“We must do our part to contribute to public health at this time,” said Dr. Rob Haworth, superintendent. “This closure will help us ‘flatten the curve’ of COVID-19’s spread and give us time to investigate best public health practices. We will continue to monitor the spread of COVID-19 with the Vigo County Health Department and update our community.”

Free meals will be available for all students under the age of 18 from Monday, March 16 until Wednesday, March 25. Grab-and-go-style lunches will be distributed at Terre Haute North Vigo High School, Terre Haute South Vigo High School, and West Vigo Elementary from 11-12 each of those days in a “drive-through” style system. The meals will be a lunch with a breakfast for the next day. These details are subject to change based on demand.

Starting Monday, March 16, all extracurricular events are on hold until school resumes. Saturday’s SAT test at Terre Haute North Vigo High School will continue, following the governor’s guidelines for public gatherings.

Families with concerns regarding special education services should contact Covered Bridge Special Education District at (812) 462-4364.

Parents may come to schools on Monday, March 16 from 8-2 to pick up medications.

All custodians will work during first shift on Monday for deep cleaning of each building.

The school corporation will place many non-essential employees on administrative leave during this time, allowing employees to avoid personal financial hardship.

While the eight waived days are not e-Learning days, the Vigo County School Corporation will release daily “Team Vigo At-Home” videos via Facebook and YouTube, to help families and students continue academic engagement during this prolonged closure. More information will be released next week.

**Government**

Vigo EMA: Vigo EMA continues to monitor current COVID 19 status and meet with Community and Response Partners. EMA will provide liaison relationship with State and Federal Agencies.

**Chamber of Commerce**