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Joel R. Strasz
Public Health Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

To: All Media
From: Joel Strasz, Public Health Officer
Date: March 20, 2020
Re: **Rumors Regarding Coronavirus in Bay County**

Bay County, Michigan – In Bay County, we have seen misinformation and a number of unsubstantiated rumors regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and the response to it being spread in the community. It is imperative that residents rely on trusted and reliable health sources of information regarding novel coronavirus, such as the Bay County Health Department or Center for Disease Control (CDC). Information spreads quickly on social media and it may not be coming from a reliable source.

Bay County has created a Coronavirus Rumor Control webpage to help dispel misinformation about the COVID-19 pandemic and response. You can find this information on the Bay County Health Department's Coronavirus website at <https://www.baycounty-mi.gov/Health/Coronavirus.aspx>.

Bay County is asking residents to report any misinformation, unsubstantiated rumors, or questions of authenticity to countyexecutive@baycounty.net or call the Bay County Executive's office at 989-895-4130. Bay County will do its best to address, dispel or confirm any question for our residents in order for them to be properly informed of this pandemic by addressing it on our Rumor Control webpage.

In order to reduce the spread of COVID-19, please follow these recommendations from the Center of Disease Control:

1. Wash your hands often with soap and water or use hand sanitizer.
2. Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.
3. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing.
4. Avoid handshakes.
5. Avoid contact with people who are sick.
6. Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
7. IF YOU ARE SICK, STAY HOME.

For the latest and most accurate information regarding the COVID-19 please go to the Bay County Health Department website at www.baycounty-mi.gov/Health and the Center for Disease Control website at www.cdc.gov.