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Friday, April 10th, 2020

## Message from Dr. Peter Hoenig Sudbury Board of Health Physician Coronavirus (COVID-19)

As predicted, COVID-19 confirmed cases are surging. Emergency rooms at local hospitals are filling with patients needing advanced care. Unfortunately, we are expecting this surge to continue over the upcoming weeks. According to public health professionals, the estimated number of COVID-19 cases are significantly higher than what is identified and reported in most communities. Many Sudbury residents have the virus but do not know it because they haven't exhibited symptoms. These people, unknowingly, are highly likely to spread the virus to other people. COVID-19 has now been confirmed throughout the community in households, workplaces, senior care facilities, food establishments, and many other gathering places.

Sudbury has responded to this increased threat by emphasizing staying at home, social distancing, personal protection measures (gloves and facial coverings, frequent handwashing, avoid touching hands to face) in efforts to reduce and minimize infections and to slow the spread. Efforts to prevent gathering include cancelling school, town events, and closing parks and courts. We appreciate your cooperation adhering to these restrictions.

You do not want to contract coronavirus, nor give it to someone else. So please stay home. Please think carefully about what you consider essential activities. If you are considering going on an errand, ask yourself whether it is absolutely necessary. Please wear face coverings, protective gloves, avoid touching your face, and wash your hands frequently. Avoid contact, within 6 feet, with others. You, alone, can make a difference.

Members of the Sudbury community have shown great support for one another and that support must increase in the coming weeks. Stay in your homes and social distance. These are the best ways to reduce the risk to you, your family, and your community.

Stay safe and be well.