



**Gayle Garbolino-Mojica**  
*County Superintendent of Schools*

## **COVID-19 Messaging for Placer County Schools**

As of February 27, 2020

**Provided by the Placer County Office of Education in collaboration with Placer County Public Health**

With the cold and flu season upon us and concerns about the novel coronavirus, we wanted to give you the most recent information from Placer County Public Health about COVID-19 and provide you with tips to help you stay healthy this season and help prevent flu and other respiratory illnesses.

As of February 26, County health officials report there are no confirmed cases of novel coronavirus in Placer County and the immediate health risk to the general public is low. However, further transmission is expected nationally and locally and the time to prepare is now.

### **Facts about COVID-19**

- Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses. Typically, human coronaviruses cause mild-to-moderate respiratory illness. In some cases, COVID-19 can cause more severe respiratory illness.
- Most of the people sickened with COVID-19 have been adults.
- On Feb. 26, the first possible case of community transmission was confirmed in a Solano County resident who is being treated at a Sacramento Hospital. For the most up-to-date information about confirmed cases in California, visit the [California Department of Public Health website](#).
- Public health professionals in the U.S. are working to slow the spread of COVID-19 and to prepare for increased cases and possible local transmission of the infection.
- This is an evolving situation. The risk to the general public remains low at this time and no cases have been confirmed in Placer County, but this is the time to prepare for potential disruptions that could come with increased spread of COVID-19.

While there is little to no community transmission in the U.S. now, health officials believe it is a matter of when not if. Current information about the coronavirus is available at [placer.ca.gov/coronavirus](http://placer.ca.gov/coronavirus) and on the [CDC website](https://www.cdc.gov).

### **Student Safety Precautions**

Given how quickly the global situation is evolving, we are working with the Placer County Office of Education and Placer County Public Health professionals to establish protocols for schools and prepare for disruptions that could result from a future outbreak in our region. The situation is fluid. We will be monitoring new developments and will continue to reevaluate our steps and actions.

In the meantime, we remain diligent in our efforts to clean frequently touched surfaces and objects such as desks, keyboard and doorknobs. Additionally, we are encouraging hand hygiene in locations readily accessible to students and staff by providing tissues, soap and hand sanitizer.

At this time, students and school staff should go about their daily lives and practice the same precautions that they normally do during cold and flu season. To help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses, including the coronavirus and flu, follow these important tips:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Individuals with chronic health issues and/or individuals experiencing severe symptoms should be evaluated by a medical professional.
- The California Department of Public Health does not recommend the use of face masks for general prevention and states handwashing provides better protection from infectious diseases.

As a reminder, if your child is sick, please keep them home from school. All children and staff members with fever (>100.4 F / >38C) should remain home from school and other activities until they had no fever for 24 hours, without fever medication.

Additionally, if your student has been to China in the past two weeks, we will follow the recommendation of CDC and require that they not return to school for 14 days from the day after they left the affected area. This will allow time for medical evaluations and to ensure the safety of everyone.

It is important to remember that handling the spread of infectious diseases like COVID-19 is primarily a task for public health agencies. Any directives from the World Health Organization, CDC, or Placer County Public Health should be followed including travel restrictions. We also

encourage you to begin thinking about your personal contingency plans for childcare and transportation should there be a potential impact to the schools in the future.

In times like this, we are particularly grateful for the strength and togetherness of this community. The safety and wellness of our students and staff are a priority, and we thank you for your cooperation and support in helping us to maintain a healthy and safe learning environment.