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County Superintendent of Schools

COVID-19 Messaging for Placer County Schools

As of March 3, 2020

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

As of March 2, the first case of COVID-19 has been confirmed by public health officials in Placer County.

- The individual had close contact with the confirmed case from Solano County and is in isolation at home. Close contacts will be quarantined and monitored as well.
- The immediate risk to the general public and to schools in Placer County is relatively low, but now is the time to prepare for the likelihood of local community transmission unrelated to this case. Current information about the coronavirus is available at placer.ca.gov/coronavirus and on the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) website](https://www.cdc.gov).

We each play a role in keeping our community healthy and safe. We understand folks may feel some anxiety about this evolving situation, but there are simple ways to turn that anxiety into action. Members of the general public and our school communities should continue their efforts to reduce the spread of respiratory illnesses including COVID-19 by washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, cover your cough or sneeze, stay home if you are sick and continue to disinfect frequently touched surfaces. 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.

Now is the time to begin thinking about your personal contingency plans for childcare and transportation should there be a potential impact to the schools in the future. The CDC provides resources for [household action plans](#).

Again, the immediate risk to schools and our communities remains low at this time. If we receive any additional information that is important to the safety of the school community, we will share it with you immediately. Unless otherwise informed, please plan for all regular school activities to continue as scheduled. And, please stay home if you or your child is sick. 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. If you or your student has traveled to Iran, South Korea, Italy, Japan or Hong Kong, please monitor for fever or cough for the next 14 days, and stay home if you have any symptoms. This will allow time for medical evaluations and to ensure the safety of everyone. Please note, there have been reports of students and others being stigmatized. Coronavirus is not specific to any race, nationality or ethnicity. We want to ensure that students and staff do not experience harassment or stigmatization as a result of concerns about COVID-19. Please report any concerns about harmful behaviors to a teacher, counselor or school administrator.

[Insert school district] remains diligent in our communication with the Placer County Office of Education and Placer County Public Health professionals to establish protocols for schools and prepare for possible future school disruptions. The situation is fluid. In the near future, we may need to take action to slow the spread of COVID-19 which will help to limit the number of people who become ill, protect our health care systems from being overwhelmed and give time to develop a vaccine and treatments. We will be monitoring new developments and will continue to reevaluate our steps and actions.

As always, 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.