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County Superintendent of Schools

COVID-19 Messaging for Placer County Schools

As of March 4, 2020

Provided by the Placer County Office of Education based on conference call updates with Placer County Public Health

In light of recent updates on COVID-19, public health officials have declared local public health emergency, which enables Placer County to access additional resources, necessary tools and mutual aid to keep the community safe. This declaration does not have any immediate or direct impact on schools. Together we are urging members of the public and school communities to be diligent in their efforts to reduce the spread of respiratory illnesses including COVID-19.

We understand the anxiety that COVID-19 has caused in our schools and with our families, and we assure you -- we are following all directives and protocols from public health officials to protect our schools and students. We are in close communication with the Placer County Office of Education and Placer County Health professional to assess potential contact and exposure risk for students and staff in **[insert School District]** (both rumor and substantiated). Any official communication will be shared on our website and on our approved social media platforms.

At this time, there are no recommendations from public health officials for cancellation of public events or field trips. With this guidance, school and all school activities will continue as scheduled. However, we continue to explore possible solutions for distance learning and prolonged Independent Study by assessing our technology access and devices and looking at contingency plans for events and spring sports. If in the event Placer County Public Health asks for social distancing or school closures in the near future, we will be forced to make alternative plans and/or cancel these events and possibly school.

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 or school events in the future. The CDC provides resources for [household action plans](#).

For general questions about COVID-19 and precautions currently recommended by Placer County Public Health, residents may call the county's coronavirus information line at (530) 886-

5310. Current information about the coronavirus is available at placer.ca.gov/coronavirus and on the [CDC website](https://www.cdc.gov).

As always, the safety and wellness of our students and staff are a priority. We will be monitoring new developments and will continue to reevaluate our steps and actions. Thank you for your cooperation and support in helping us to maintain a healthy and safe learning environment.

Health and Safety Reminders

- 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. 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. Students who attend school with sniffles or coughs will be sent home.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Look out for friends and loved ones who would be considered more vulnerable and offer support. 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.

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 any country identified by the CDC with a Level 2 travel restriction, 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.