



Gayle Garbolino-Mojica
County Superintendent of Schools

COVID-19 Messaging for Placer County Schools

As of March 10, 2020

Provided by the Placer County Office of Education based on Guidance from Placer County Health

On March 10, the Placer County Health Officer along with the Yolo County Health Officer announced moving from containment strategies (keeping the spread of the virus controlled) to community mitigation strategies in an effort to slow the spread of COVID-19 throughout our region with a focus to protect vulnerable communities and guard critical infrastructure. Efforts such as reducing social contacts between people in schools, workplaces and community settings can be the first line of defense against highly transmissible infectious diseases. [Read the press release.](#)

The Placer County Office of Education and Placer County Public Health remind the public that there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 involving students or school staff in Placer County at this time. There is no recommendation from Placer County Public Health for any school district to close. Class instruction will continue as planned.

Based on [joint guidance from the California Department of Public Health and the California Department of Education under Scenario II](#) along with recommendations from Placer County Public Health, effective immediately through March 31, 2020, all schools in **[insert school district]** will implement the following community mitigation measures to ensure students and staff are able to continue in their academic and personal achievement in a safe environment:

- **UPDATED HEALTH PROTOCOL:** If sick (students and staff), stay home from school for seven days from the onset of symptoms or 72 hours after symptoms are gone, whichever is longer. All absences due to illnesses will be excused with parent confirmation, per policies outlined in our district materials. Please contact your school office to discuss Independent Study options as needed for student illness.
 - Employees will self-screen (i.e., check themselves) for symptoms similar to the common cold such as sore throat, headache, fatigue, cough or fever each morning before interacting with co-workers, students or staff.
 - With the shift from containment to mitigation, it is no longer necessary for someone who has been in contact with a person who has COVID-19 to quarantine for 14 days.

- [Include other actions your district is taking regarding events, visitors and social distancing measures, whenever possible. Samples from local districts are attached as reference.]

The complete clinical picture with regard to COVID-19 is not fully understood, and the situation is fluid. While these decisions are difficult to make, we are taking these actions at the recommendation of Placer County Public Health and other agencies based on what is known at this time about the transmission and severity of the illness to best protect our school communities.

We are in close/daily communication with the Placer County Office of Education and Placer County Public Health professionals to assess potential contact and exposure risk for students and staff in (both rumor and substantiated). If confirmed cases are discovered associated with schools, the public health department will advise what appropriate steps need to be taken, up to and including school closures or quarantines.

Now is the time to begin thinking about your personal contingency plans. The CDC provides resources for [household action plans](#). For information on travel plans you or families might be planning for Spring Break, please consult the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website for [travel guidelines](#).

Our top priority is the health and safety of our students and staff, and we take this responsibility seriously. While we will always err on the side of keeping schools open as long as we believe it to be safe for students and staff members, [we also understand and respect your family's decision to keep a healthy student at home if you have the means and feel it is your best option]. 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.

Thank you,
[Insert Superintendent Information]

For more information:

- Contact [insert district contact for parent questions] for questions.
- 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](#).