Coronavirus Resources and Recommendations

Working Together to Keep Our Students Safe

Originally Posted: 02-27-2020 Updated: 03-12-2020

The Facts:

A new ("novel") virus is causing an outbreak of respiratory illness called coronavirus (COVID-19). The outbreak began in December of 2019 in Hubei Province, China, but outbreaks are now occurring in other countries around the world. As of March 10th, 2020, residents of Contra Costa County are still at a low risk of becoming infected with novel coronavirus.

- Across the United States, as of March 12, 2020, there are 1,215 cases (confirmed and presumptive positive) of infected individuals and 36 deaths. Source: Center for Disease Control and Prevention
- Among reported cases in California, sixteen (16) individuals have been confirmed in Contra Costa County. Source: Contra Costa Health Services
- There are zero (0) cases of coronavirus reported at our school sites.

The World Health Organization maintains an interactive map and issues daily reports tracking Coronavirus statistics across the globe.

District Actions and Recommendations

Our district’s Coronavirus Task Force, at the direction of the Superintendent, has reviewed guidance provided to schools by Contra Costa Health Services (CCHS) on 3/10/20 and has provided further information to our school leaders and the public on Wednesday morning (3/11/20) regarding restrictions and limitations as a way to minimize risk to our students. Our guidance (also available in Español) and required actions documents were sent to Principals, following the guidance from CCHS. School Principals are expected to communicate any event postponements to their respective communities.

All of our School Site Safety Plans have been fully evaluated and updated. Our professional staff have been trained to properly screen, assess, and refer any student who is not feeling well.

Further, Mount Diablo Unified School District school is being proactive in many ways:

- Ensuring our staff are trained to properly screen, assess, and refer students who are not feeling well
- Establishing daily sanitizing and disinfecting routines for frequently touched objects: faucets and door handles
- Re-distributing our district’s emergency response plan to school leadership to add to existing school site safety plans
- Promoting additional precautionary measures like encouraging students and staff to stay home if they ill or are experiencing flu-like symptoms.
- Ensuring our custodial staff are knowledgeable on recommendations and preventative measures issued by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Ensuring sanitary resources are available for increased hand washing or hand sanitizing stations
- Reviewing all class field trips and school travel to specific locations (standard protocol)
- Continuing our collaboration with county health officials for information and recommendations

Protect Yourself

Despite the district’s many actions, individual precautions are the best way to protect yourself and to help prevent the spread of disease. See these recommendations from the CDC:
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol.
- Always wash hands with soap and water if your hands are visibly dirty.
- Avoid close contact with those who are ill.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- 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 using wipes or disinfectant cleaning spray.

Future Response and Action Plan

If in the future we confirm any case of coronavirus at our schools, our district will follow guidelines from the California Department of Public Health in coordination with the Contra Costa Health Services (CCHS) organization.

Mount Diablo Unified School District recognizes that this situation is evolving, and we will make every effort to update this webpage on a daily basis and send out communication by phone and email as needed. We sincerely appreciate your partnership to keep our students safe.

The Office of the Superintendent
Mount Diablo Unified School District