



2019 Novel Coronavirus Guidance FOR: Schools and School Districts Administration

Background

The 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) is a virus that was recently identified in Wuhan, China. The virus causes respiratory illness. For up-to-date information regarding 2019-nCoV, go to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/about/index.html>.

The CDC reminds us the risk of this new virus to the American public, including residents of California, is low at this time. People at highest risk include those traveling from China and those in close contact with confirmed cases. The United States has implemented thorough screenings at airports and is following strict precautions and monitoring.

Recommendations

Anyone returning from China on or after January 23, 2020 should be excluded from school for 14 days from the day they left China.

If a child or staff member:

- **recently traveled from China, AND**
- **has symptoms of respiratory illness, such as fever and cough**

send that person home and immediately contact San Benito County Public Health Services at 831-637-5367.

Preventative Actions

We recommend all students, parents and staff follow these precautions to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, including influenza:

- Flu shot
 - Flu activity still remains high at this time and symptoms of coronavirus are similar to the flu.
- Stay home when sick
 - Remain home until fever is gone for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicines.
 - Seek immediate medical care if symptoms become more severe, e.g., high fever or difficulty breathing.
- Use good “cough and sneeze etiquette”
 - Cover cough and sneezes with a tissue or sleeve. See CDC’s Cover your Cough page <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/prevent/actions-prevent-flu.htm> for multilingual posters and flyers.
 - Provide adequate supplies of tissues and no-touch trash cans.
- Wash hands frequently
 - Encourage frequent hand washing. Provide access to hand washing areas and hand sanitizer.
- Routinely clean frequently touched surfaces.
- Separate sick students and staff from others until they can go home. When feasible, identify a “sick room” through which others do not regularly pass.

- Update emergency plans so they are already in place.
- Refer to your Emergency Preparedness School Communicable Disease Management binder, issued by San Benito County Public Health Services in 2017. Additional copies can be provided upon request.
- Please contact San Benito County Public Health Services for questions, assistance with communicable disease plans, and additional information. You can reach us at (831) 637-5367 or go to the San Benito Public Health Services website: <http://hhsa.cosb.us/publichealth/>.

San Benito County Public Health Services remains committed to keeping our schools and community healthy. We are here to work with you and answer any questions. This is an emerging, rapidly evolving situation, and the information may change. San Benito County Public Health Services will provide updated information as it becomes available.

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