

March 3, 2020

Informational Release

Shaffer Families,

By now, most of us have seen the news updates associated with the COVID-19, or Coronavirus Outbreak that was first detected in Wuhan City in China. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has been following this health situation and is working with the California Department of Public Health. I want to assure you that our school district is keeping track of this situation through these proven and trustworthy sources. These health officials believe the risk to our school community is low at this time.

Updated information from the CDC on coronavirus in the United States can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>. The most recent information about coronavirus in California may be found at: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/ncov2019.aspx>.

Much is being learned about this newly emerged virus. Based on the current information, health officials are recommending local communities and schools should take the same steps to protect against coronavirus as we take to prevent the spread of everyday illnesses like the common cold or the flu:

- 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.
- Cover your mouth and nose with the inside of your elbow when you cough or sneeze.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

The 2019 novel coronavirus is believed to be spread through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes, much in the way the flu and other respiratory viruses are spread. Symptoms can be fever, cough, or difficulty breathing. At this time, persons considered at risk are those with travel to China, or those in close contact with persons infected with novel coronavirus.

While a new type of illness can be scary, we can protect our students, teachers, and the broader community by using simple everyday actions that protect people from other types of respiratory viruses. Our teachers, school nurses, and staff are working carefully to encourage these simple and effective habits of frequent handwashing, covering every cough or sneeze, and we have increased the frequency that we are cleaning classroom tables/surfaces. This additional deep cleaning is important not just to

help prevent the spread of coronavirus, but to help prevent the spread of other infections that can lead to student illness and absences.

Thank you for your support of our district, our schools, our students and our teachers and staff.

Sincerely,

Jeff Baker

Superintendent/Principal