

March 10, 2020

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Dear Encinitas Union School District families:

We want to continue to update you on our plans regarding the novel coronavirus, also referred to as COVID-19. We have compiled information on some of the most common questions and topics we have recently heard.

First and foremost, due to the constant evolution of information regarding the illness and its implications, we continue to monitor the situation closely. We are collaborating with the [San Diego County Office of Education](#), and are receiving regular updates and guidance from the [County of San Diego Health and Human Services](#), the [California Department of Education](#), and the [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#).

You may have heard that San Diego County public health officials announced that the county has its first presumptive positive case of COVID-19. The individual is quarantined at a local hospital and there is no active threat to the public. State officials also indicated that they have moved from a policy of containment to one of mitigation. In the mitigation phase, we may begin seeing more cases and therefore additional procedures and restrictions could be forthcoming.

School Closures

We understand that many parents and families are concerned about the potential spread of the virus in our schools and have asked at what point we would consider closing our school sites. Our charge under state law is to stay open as long as our schools remains safe for students and staff. State and federal law empower the local public health officer with broad authority to take all actions needed to control the spread of an infectious disease, including orders to close schools. In our county, the San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency has this authority and is the lead agency in managing the county's response to this situation. **We have been assured by public health officials that school closures are unwarranted at this time and could create unintended consequences that would hurt their efforts to protect our community.** We will remain in close contact with public health officials throughout the duration of this situation and comply with their guidance.

Spring Break and Current Travel

With spring break approaching, it is important to note that there are pre-cautions now in place regarding travel. CDC is working with state and local public health partners to implement after-travel health pre-cautions. Depending on your travel history, you will be asked to stay home for a period of 14 days from the time you left an area with widespread or ongoing community spread ([Level 2 and Level 3 Travel Health Notice](#)).

CDC provides travel notices to be used for considering travel and/or postponing or canceling travel. These are based on the assessment of potential health risks involved with traveling to a certain area. A list of [destinations with travel notices is available here](#).

If you travel, take the following routine precautions:

- Avoid contact with sick people.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Clean your hands often by washing them with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains 60%–95% alcohol. Soap and water should be used if hands are visibly dirty.
- It is especially important to clean hands after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose.

Field trips

We have had questions regarding upcoming field trips. At this time, there are no recommendations to suspend activities for children. Our decisions have been made with the guidance from the CDC, the California Department of Public Health, the San Diego County Office of Education, and local public health officials. For the moment, local trips will continue as planned. It is difficult to predict into the future, however, if at any time we become aware that it is unsafe or not recommended due to public / community health we will make necessary adjustments and notify families immediately.

Illness

The best thing we can do to reduce the risk within the community is to reduce exposure to illness. If your child has a fever and is exhibiting symptoms of the flu or other respiratory illness, we recommend the following:

1. Keep your child home from school if they are sick; they may not return to school until they are fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication.
2. We recommend you take your child to the doctor to be tested for the flu or other respiratory illness.
3. If your child is diagnosed with the flu or other respiratory illness, please let your school know and follow the doctor's recommendations for recovery.
4. If your child is not diagnosed with the flu or other respiratory illness and the doctor recommends returning to school (assuming the child has been fever-free for at least 24 hours), please share this information with the school prior to or at the time you return your child to school.
5. If a child comes to the school office with a temperature of 100 or more, we will require that they be picked up by a guardian.

Increased School Cleaning Efforts

Following are some of the precautionary steps the district is taking to mitigate the impact of illness on our campuses:

1. We have enhanced routine cleaning of school sites and offices.
2. We are increasing use of ProTexus disinfecting electro-magnetic spray in our schools.
3. We have shared short videos that demonstrate proper handwashing techniques with our classrooms and posted flyers at all sites with information about proper hand washing and hygiene techniques, and information about COVID-19.
4. We have identified a site at each school where sick students will await pick up by their parents.
5. We are tracking instances of illness in students and staff.

If you have additional questions, please see [the latest updates from the CDC, County of San Diego Health and Human Services](#), and also visit [our website for updated information](#).

As we have shared in previous communications, please continue to remind your children about the importance of properly, and frequently, washing hands. We will continue to review proper handwashing and hygiene at school as well.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrée Grey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line at the end.

Andrée Grey Ed.D.
Superintendent

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maria Waskin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line at the end.

Maria Waskin
Director, Pupil Personnel Services