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COVID-19 Update

March 12, 2020

Dear Etiwanda School District Parents and Guardians,

Our District continues to closely monitor reports from public health officials regarding COVID-19, the novel coronavirus. As of March 10, 2020, according to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), 157 cases have been confirmed in California. Adjacent counties have confirmed cases of community spread of the virus. As you are aware, this is a quickly evolving situation.

There are currently no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in San Bernardino County, and the health risk from COVID-19 to the general public in our county remains low at this time according to the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health. Our District believes a reasonable, proactive approach, taking into consideration the most current information and guidance offered by public health experts, will best protect our students, staff and families.

With that in mind, I want to share an update regarding steps our District is taking to prevent the spread of illness among students and staff members.

Most importantly, our district remains in contact with public health officials and will update our response and actions based upon guidance from those officials.

Handwashing:

Handwashing with soap and water is one of the most effective ways to stop the spread of illness. All classrooms and restrooms are supplied with soap and paper towels, and are being checked more frequently to insure the availability of these supplies.

Teachers in primary grades are teaching correct handwashing procedures to students. All teachers are working to include hand washing routines during the school day. All classrooms have hand sanitizer available when hand washing is not feasible.

Classroom and School Cleaning:

Classrooms are cleaned nightly, including desktops, counters, sinks and door handles using a hydrogen-peroxide based cleaner. Teachers have spray bottles of cleaner available for use if needed. School custodians have additional cleaning products available.

Additional cleaning of high touch surfaces such as restroom areas, breakfast and lunch areas, door knobs and drinking faucet handles will occur during the school day.

The District is monitoring attendance by school site and classroom. This is a normal activity during flu season. Deep cleaning of classrooms is also available for classrooms with higher levels of absences.

Health Offices:

Health Offices are disinfected daily and more frequently as needed. Schools have a designated area, separate from other students, where a student with a fever or signs of flu or respiratory illness can wait to be picked up from school. Isolation areas are also disinfected daily.

School Closure:

Because there are no positive cases of COVID-19 at this time in our county, the Department of Public Health (DPH) is not recommending school closures. Our District will continue to remain in contact with DPH for the most updated information and guidance.

We are not able to predict if and when a school may be required to close, as the information regarding COVID-19 is frequently evolving. Parents and guardians should plan ahead for child care needs in the event school closure is necessary.

If a school is required to close, to provide educational continuity, voluntary distance learning activities will be available to students.

Social Distancing:

The California Department of Public Health released new guidelines last night regarding large gatherings in California for groups that do not usually have close contact together. School principals are currently reviewing the schedule of upcoming field trips and site activities, and will contact parents/guardians regarding any activities or trips that will be postponed or cancelled. The new guidelines do not apply to activities such as attendance at school where students normally associate with each other.

Other actions may be implemented based upon any new guidance and updates from local health officials.

School site visitors and volunteers with symptoms of fever and/or respiratory illness, or who have a travel history over the course of the last 14 days to an area identified by the CDC as a Level 3 Travel Health Notice may not enter a school campus.

Attendance Incentives:

Schools are suspending attendance incentives at this time. In addition, schools that offer a "perfect attendance award" will only consider first and second trimester attendance (through February 14) for the award.

What Parents and Guardians Can Do

Parents and guardians of students are asked to continue to follow our [District's Illness Guidelines for Parents](#) in determining when a child should be kept home from school for illness, fever, vomiting/diarrhea or other contagious conditions. Please contact the health office at your child's school if you have any illness related questions.

Preventative Measures:

As a reminder, CDPH recommends the following steps to prevent the spread of respiratory viruses:

- Washing hands with soap and water.
- Avoiding touching eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoiding close contact with people who are sick.
- Staying away from work, school or other people if you become sick with a fever or respiratory symptoms like a cough and congestion.

Spring Break Travel:

Spring Break is scheduled the week of March 23-27, a time that many families have travel plans. As travel guidance from the CDC is updated, additional restrictions may be put in place that require self-quarantine. Upon return from Spring Break, as on any school day, parents and guardians should also follow the illness guidelines for parents mentioned above.

The Etiwanda School District will continue to work closely with our local Department of Public Health, as well as state and national agencies. Updated information will be provided to parents and guardians as it becomes available. Additional information regarding the novel coronavirus is available on the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) and [California Department of Public Health](#) websites.

As always, thank you for your cooperation and support as we work together to protect the health of our students, staff, families and community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

Shawn Judson, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Etiwanda School District