March 3, 2020

Good afternoon SSD families,

We continue to closely monitor the new coronavirus, now named COVID-19, in partnership with the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE), the County of Santa Clara Public Health Department, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

All Sunnyvale School District schools continue to be open and ready to serve students. That status would only change under the direction of the county health officer, with any absence due to quarantine by the County of Santa Clara Public Health Department excused. We will inform you if the situation for any of our schools changes.

Per the guidance of Public Health, we have been enhancing our cleaning of frequently used surfaces. Each of our schools has increased the regular disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces such as door handles, counters in front offices and health offices, light switches, faucets, drinking fountains and sinks. Our nurses also are experts in watching for symptoms and providing guidance to families.

The following guidelines are highly recommended by Public Health. You can support us by following these standard precautionary measures:

- wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer when soap is not available;
- avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth and avoid close contact with people who are sick;
- stay home when sick and call your school to report fever and respiratory symptoms;
- cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, throw the tissue in the trash, and clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces;
- individuals with chronic health issues and/or individuals experiencing severe symptoms should be evaluated by a medical professional;
- and continue to receive an annual flu shot
You will find additional information on COVID-19 on the websites of the County of Santa Clara Public Health Department and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Please watch and share the attached video on the proper technique to wash hands.

Per the guidance of the CDC, all nonessential travel to China and Iran should be avoided, as well as to South Korea and Italy. CDC recommends that older adults or those who have chronic medical conditions consider postponing travel to Japan. For the most up to date information on travel restrictions please go to https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html.

The CDC is recommending anyone who has been to these counties should stay at home for 14 days after leaving to monitor for any symptoms. This will be an excused absence and your school will work with your student on continuing learning while they are at home.

The Santa Clara County Public Health Department is not recommending that anyone who is not sick, or has not traveled to the affected countries should stay at home. If a family chooses to keep their child home when they are not sick, they will be marked unexcused and homework during this time will not be supported.

Public Health has also shared recommendations for individuals who are at higher risk of becoming seriously ill if they contract COVID-19.

Who is at higher risk?

Information about risk factors for COVID-19 infection is evolving, but the best evidence currently available makes clear that risk of severe illness begins to increase at age 50 for those who contract COVID-19, and increases with age (i.e., an 80-year-old person is at greater risk than a 70-year-old person). The highest risk group are persons age 80 and over.

Persons with underlying medical problems also are likely at higher risk for severe disease, including persons with cardiovascular disease, diabetes, cancer, heart disease, or chronic lung diseases like COPD, as well as those who are immunocompromised.
What should I do if I am at higher risk?

The County Public Health Department is recommending that persons at higher risk avoid mass gatherings such as parades, sporting events, and concerts where large numbers of people are within arm’s length of one another. This would not include typical office environments, grocery stores, or shopping centers, where it is unusual for large numbers of people to be within arm’s length of one another.

We appreciate your understanding and support.

Hand washing video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=lisgnbMfKvl&feature=emb_logo