



HEALTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT

5735 47th Avenue • Sacramento, CA 95824

Jorge A. Aguilar, Superintendent

Victoria Flores, Director III, Student Support and Health Services

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 11, 2020
TO: All Principals and Office Managers
FROM: Victoria Flores,
Director III, Student Support and Health Services

SUBJECT: 2019 Novel Coronavirus Guidance for Schools and School Districts

Attached is a statement from the Sacramento County Department of Health Services providing 2019 Novel Coronavirus Guidance for Schools. This guidance recommends "Returning travelers from China should be excluded from school for 14 days after they left China. The recommendation to exclude students from school is effective Monday, February 3, 2020." If a family reports they've recently returned from China, please contact Health Services immediately so that we can coordinate with Public Health to determine next steps. We want to be cautious about excluding students from school before gathering all relevant data.

Please contact Health Services in the order listed below:

1. Tami Cisneros – Health Services Coordinator
 - Desk: (916) 643-9152
 - Cell: (916) 368-6544
2. Victoria Flores – Director, Student Support & Health Services
 - Desk: (916) 643-9144
 - Cell: (916) 752-3643
3. Health Services – (916) 643-9412

Everyone is encouraged to follow common-sense precautions, such as simple hand-washing, to prevent the spread of infectious diseases; a comprehensive list of suggestions is included in the County's statement.

As is SCUSD's standard practice, please continue to notify Health Services (using the contact list above) should your school encounter a large number of absences reporting consistent symptoms on the same day (25% or more of a specific classroom, or 10% or more of the entire school).

Thank you for working to keep our students, families, and community safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Victoria Flores,
Director III, Student Support & Health Services

Enclosure



County of Sacramento

2019 Novel Coronavirus Guidance for Schools and School Districts

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

Based on new recommendations from CDC, local health departments are communicating with travelers returning from China to provide guidance about limiting public interactions for 14 days. Returning travelers from China should be excluded from school for 14 days after they left China. The recommendation to exclude students from school is effective Monday, February 3, 2020.

In the unusual event that a child or staff member is identified who recently traveled from China and has symptoms of respiratory illness, such as fever and cough, that person should be sent home and the school should immediately contact Sacramento County Public Health at (916) 875-5881.

At this time, there is low risk to residents of California from 2019-nCoV, but schools can take common-sense precautions to prevent the spread of all infectious diseases. These precautions can help prevent the spread of other common illness such as influenza and gastroenteritis.

Encourage all students, parents, and staff to take everyday preventive actions:

1. Stay home when sick.

- Remain at home until fever has been 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.

2. Use “respiratory etiquette”.

- Cover cough 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. (Scroll down for materials.)
- Provide adequate supplies within easy reach, including tissues and no-touch trash cans.

3. Wash hands frequently.

- Encourage hand washing by students and staff through education, scheduled time for handwashing, and the provision of adequate supplies.

4. Routinely clean frequently touched surfaces.

5. 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.

6. Encourage flu vaccine for those who have not had it this season to reduce illnesses and absences on campus. The flu vaccine will not protect against 2019-nCoV, but is still highly recommended as flu cases are still increasing.

7. Develop policies to respond to outbreaks and communicable diseases:

- Follow the guidance and contact Sacramento County Public Health at (916) 875-5881 with any questions or concerns.
- Update emergency plans so that they are in place before an outbreak occurs.