

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are continuing to closely monitor the new coronavirus and want to provide you with an update and the very latest information.

Although there have been reported cases of the new coronavirus in Los Angeles and Orange counties, there are still no reported cases in San Diego County. **San Diego County public health experts continue to say the risk of local transmission is low.**

[Below are responses to some questions parents in the county have asked nurses/schools/districts. Please edit based on questions your school/district has received.]

Many of you have asked about wearing masks. The California Department of Public Health does not recommend the use of masks for general prevention and says that handwashing provides better protection from infectious diseases.

Students will not be excluded from school or any activities based on their race, country of origin or recent travel (including travel to China).

Students who have travelled to China will only be excluded if they have symptoms of respiratory illness, such as fever (T >100.4° F or >38°C), cough, shortness of breath, AND have recently traveled from China.]

While the risk of coronavirus is low, activity levels for influenza (flu) remain high so it's important to keep your child home from school if they are feeling sick. Symptoms of the flu can vary, but generally include a high fever, headache, chills, body aches, sore throat, and cough. To help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses, including the coronavirus and flu, follow these important tips:

- 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 cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- 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.
- Get vaccinated every year

The San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) is monitoring the coronavirus, and has information available on its [website](#). The [Los Angeles County Department of Public Health](#) also has FAQs available in English, Spanish, and Chinese.

_____ School District will continue to monitor the situation and obtain updates from the California Department of Public Health and local health officials about the diagnosis and management of cases of novel coronavirus, as applicable. People who have traveled to China since Dec. 1, 2019, could have been exposed to the virus. Seek medical care and contact San Diego County HHSA if you traveled to China and develop a fever and/or respiratory symptoms within 14 days of your return.

If you have questions about these topics, please contact _____. We thank you for your cooperation and support.

Sincerely,