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CORONAVIRUS UPDATE – PLEASE READ!

March 9, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

With increasing coronavirus (COVID-19) concerns, we are working closely with the Stanislaus County Office of Education (SCOE) and Public Health/Health Services Agency (HSA) to keep our schools, students and employees safe.

On March 7, the California Department of Public Health issued new School Guidance meant to slow the spread of COVID-19 across the state, reduce the number of people infected, and protect those who are most vulnerable to severe illness.

Currently, as of March 9, there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Stanislaus County.

We are preparing for a potential impact that this virus may have in our county, and in accordance with HSA's recommendations, have taken measures to prevent the spread of the virus in our schools. Measures taken include increased cleaning and disinfecting procedures for classrooms, restrooms, cafeterias, offices and common area spaces. These include, but are not limited to, door handles, light switches, phone receivers, computer keyboards, student and staff desks, chairs, faucets, countertops, sinks, pencil sharpeners, towel and soap dispensers.

RESTRICTIONS ON TRAVEL AND FIELD TRIPS (effective March 10, 2020):

- Per guidelines issued by the California Department of Public Health, we are restricting/cancelling all non-essential, previously **approved** out-of-county/state travel and field trips to locations that have confirmed "community spread" cases of the coronavirus (i.e., counties of Santa Clara/Solano/San Francisco; Seattle, WA etc.). The list of locations experiencing community spread will be reviewed daily.

CORONAVIRUS TIPS / HOW YOU CAN HELP AS A PARENT:

Your help is essential to our preparations in reducing the spread of COVID-19. We need your full cooperation and ask that you read all communications carefully and adhere to actions required to keep students and employees healthy, including:

- Stay home from school or work when sick.
 - Remain 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.
- Wash hands frequently 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.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Make sure all family members are up-to-date with their flu shots
- Avoid contact with those who are sick

Information on this virus, and how to control its spread, may change in the following days and weeks. We will continue to work closely with County Health Services Agency to monitor the situation and provide updates as necessary. Thank you for putting the health and well-being of our community first. We will get through this challenge together.

Sincerely,

Sara Noguchi, Ed.D
Superintendent, Modesto City Schools



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