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Office of the Superintendent

March 6, 2020

San Dieguito School Community,

Please be advised that we continue to closely monitor the 2019 novel coronavirus (now named COVID-19) situation and will continue to provide updates as necessary. We are collaborating closely with the [San Diego County Office of Education](#), and are receiving regular updates and guidance from the [County of San Diego Health and Human Services](#), the [California Department of Education](#), and the [Centers for Disease Control](#) (CDC). We encourage you to stay informed of the situation by regularly checking updates on these sites as well.

Public health officials have now confirmed that an individual who resides in Orange County, but recently traveled to San Diego County, has received a presumptive positive test for COVID-19. All individuals who were in close contact with the person are being monitored by public health.

We understand that many parents and families are concerned about the potential spread of the virus in our schools and have asked at what point we would consider closing our school sites and/or cancelling planned school activities. Our charge under state law is to stay open as long as our site remains safe for students and staff.

State and federal law empower the local public health officer with broad authority to take all actions needed to control the spread of an infectious disease, including orders to close schools. In our county, the San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency has this authority and is the lead agency in managing the county's response to this threat. **We have been assured by public health officials that school closures are unwarranted at this time and could create unintended consequences that would hurt their efforts to protect our community. Additionally, we have received no guidance to cancel or alter our planned school activities (field trips, sports, extracurriculars, etc.) so at this time, unless you are informed otherwise directly by your school site principal, all planned activities are moving forward.** We will remain in close contact with public health officials throughout the duration of this threat and comply with all of their guidance. We will notify you immediately if the guidance changes.

Our focus continues to be on prevention and preparation. Our staff is trained on cleaning and disinfecting classrooms, and our nurses are experts in watching for symptoms and providing guidance to families. Custodial staff is disinfecting all classrooms daily with an added emphasis on all high-touch surfaces (door handles, guard railings, phones, etc.).

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

If you have a concern, specific to your child, please collaborate directly with their medical provider to explore best practices.

We also want to share that on March 4, local health officials updated their guidelines for when a student should remain home. If your child has respiratory symptoms and fever of $>100\text{ F}$ / $>37.8\text{ C}$ (lowered from 100.4 F), they should remain home from school and other activities until they have no fever for 24 hours, without fever medication. In addition, if your child has severe productive coughs (i.e., spewing respiratory droplets) that are not typical for them, they should stay home.

Again, San Dieguito Union High School District will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates as necessary.

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

Respectfully,

Robert A. Haley, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Committed to the Future