



March 12, 2020
10:00 A.M.

Dear Pomona Unified Parents, Guardians, Staff and Community Members:

News and updates about Coronavirus (COVID-19) are circulating on all mainstream and social media channels. As it relates to educational institutions, several colleges and universities announced digital alternatives to traditional in-class lectures and teaching formats as proactive safety measures against possible exposure. The goal of this correspondence is to provide a comprehensive update on our proactive safety measures for staff and students of Pomona Unified School District in light of COVID-19.

Please be advised that there are NO KNOWN CASES OF COVID-19 EXPOSURE AMONG PUSD STAFF AND/OR STUDENTS.

Our school and district office administrators are taking every precaution to ensure the protection of every single student and staff member with daily check-ins with the County of Los Angeles Public Health advisory website, and with daily updates from Los Angeles County Office of Education Superintendent Dr. Debra Duardo. Our Public Information Office here at Pomona Unified School District will be relaying direct and timely updates related to your child's best interest amid media reports and daily health organization updates.

While there are no known cases of COVID-19 in our district, we are still taking the matter very seriously to ensure maximum safety of students and staff.

As such, we are in full compliance with school district health and safety mandates and recommendations by leading health organizations. As a further proactive measure, our district is implementing a comprehensive plan to address any possible threats of rumor, exposure, or known transmission of COVID-19. We are actively addressing internal and external emergency protocols to maintain safe, trusting and productive learning environments free from distractions for our staff and students during academic testing and routine in-class instruction.

Additionally, we are following the California Department of Health's [guideline for educational institutions](#) to help determine when school closure might be in order. Please note, again, that we are in full compliance with school district mandates as relayed from Los Angeles County Office of Education and by leading health organizations. Given the serious nature of COVID-19, we remain diligent in implementing precautions as strongly recommended by Los Angeles County Department of Health.



POMONA UNIFIED'S PROACTIVE MEASURES TO PREVENT COVID-19 EXPOSURE

If travel is planned during spring break, please check the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) website for up-to-date travel advisories. As of today, the CDC has issued Level 3 travel warnings (which cautions travelers to avoid non-essential travel) to Europe, China, Iran, Italy, and South Korea. Travelers returning from these countries are being asked to “self-isolate” at home for 14 days upon returning to the United States. For the safety of our Pomona Unified community, we will follow this recommendation and require students who have traveled to a country with a Level 3 travel warning to stay home for 14 days after returning to the United States before returning to any PUSD school or work site. For any students asked to stay home due to travel, parents may request an independent study agreement by contacting Pomona Unified’s Educational Services department.

Pomona Unified School District is currently joining groups across the country to prevent the spread of coronavirus and prepare for additional action. We are doing the following:

- Working to get increased supplies of items, such as hand sanitizing stations. (Please note there is a nation-wide shortage of hand sanitizers, creating a delay in the acquisition of these items);
- Updating our emergency operations plan and outlined a coronavirus response plan;
- Reviewing our internal and external communications procedures to keep parents, guardians and community members thoroughly updated;
- Developing a dedicated district web page (<https://proudtobe.pusd.org/COVID19safetyupdates/>) to facilitate mass messaging and notification through email, text message, and social media;
- Initiating contact with Los Angeles County Office of Education and the LA County Department of Public Health for ongoing information-sharing, coordination and pertinent daily updates;
- Preparing custodial staff and emphasizing focused cleaning in high-touch areas and planning for the decontamination of areas as the need arises; and
- Working toward business continuity plans for teaching and learning in case of campus disruptions and closures.

Below are a few tips to share regarding healthy habits and common-sense steps to prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses, including:

- **Avoiding close contact with people who are exhibiting symptoms of illness (e.g., cold or flu-like symptoms);**
- **Avoiding touching your eyes, nose and mouth before thoroughly washing your hands for at least 20 seconds;**



- **Staying home when you are sick to ensure that you don't compromise your immune system while it is battling traditional cold or flu symptoms;**
- **Covering your cough or sneeze with your forearm; within the fold of your arm, or with a tissue and then immediately throwing the tissue in the nearest trash receptacle;**
- **Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe; and**
- **Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating and after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing (If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol.)**

Should you have any further questions, concerns, comments and updates, please do not hesitate to contact PUSD's Public Information Officer, Oliver T. Unaka at (909)397-4480 for information on our safety measures for students and staff.

Always check with trusted sources for the latest accurate information about novel coronavirus:
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/>

California Department of Public Health
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/ncov2019.aspx>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

World Health Organization
<https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus>

LA County residents can also dial 2-1-1.

Sincerely,

Superintendent Richard Martinez