



March 5, 2020

Parker Hudnut, CEO

Dear ICEF Families,

Last week, ICEF sent out tips on how to stay healthy and prevent the spread of respiratory diseases. Today, I am following up to share Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) via ParentSquare that respond to many of the questions we have received so far regarding COVID-19. ICEF's goal is to provide you with timely information regarding your child's health and safety and we will keep updating you as the situation requires.

Two of the leading authorities on COVID-19 are the Centers for Disease Control and The LA County Department of Public Health. ICEF continues to monitor information from both organizations. We will continually update our communication with you as well as our health and safety procedures as often as needed.

The safety and wellness of students and staff are high priorities. Staying informed and, *especially staying home if you do not feel well*, are the best preventative measures for us all.

Thank you for your support and cooperation to help maintain a healthy and safe learning environment.

Warmest regards,

Parker Hudnut, CEO  
ICEF Public Schools



## **Frequently Asked Questions (March 5, 2020)**

### **How is ICEF monitoring COVID-19?**

ICEF is regularly monitoring the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LACDPH), the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), Inglewood Unified School District and the Los Angeles Unified School District and will provide families and our school communities with the most up to date information.

### **Will ICEF be closing schools due to COVID-19?**

No, as of the current information of March 5, 2020. All ICEF schools are operating as usual. However, like all public schools within Los Angeles County, ICEF will close schools if and when the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LACDPH) determines closure is necessary in order to protect students, staff, and the community.

### **How will parents be notified in the event of school closures?**

In the event we need to close schools, we will utilize Parent Square. Please make sure we have your current contact information. If your phone number or email has changed it is important that you update it through the school office. We will also post news of school closures on our website [www.ICEFPS.ORG](http://www.ICEFPS.ORG).

### **If a student or staff member is diagnosed with COVID-19, will parents be notified?**

Yes. In the event that ICEF receives information from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LACDPH) indicating that a student or staff member has been diagnosed with COVID-19, ICEF will immediately notify parents and staff of that school. This communication will take place in conjunction with the LACDPH. The anonymity and confidentiality of the affected student or staff member will be maintained.

### **If schools close for the safety of students, will there be alternative instructional methods so that learning can continue?**

Yes. ICEF has various alternative means of instruction in the event schools are closed. We will have more detailed information on this topic in the days to come should this option be necessary.

### **What help will ICEF be able to provide with childcare in the event a school(s) is closed?**

No. If the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LACDPH) informs ICEF that schools must close because of a health issue, we are not permitted to allow students on campus. We realize that a school closure will put a significant burden on families. We apologize for this possible situation and hope that everyone can understand any closure will be in the best interest for the health of students and faculty.

### **What cleaning or disinfecting is ICEF currently doing to prevent the spread of germs?**

Schools are being cleaned daily by our custodial staff, who use a disinfectant solution to sanitize restrooms, drinking fountains, and lunch/food-preparation areas. They also are ensuring that all restrooms are equipped with hand soap and paper towels for students to regularly wash their hands.

### **What is ICEF doing to teach students about COVID-19 and other such illnesses?**

Staff at schools will be communicating the importance of healthy hygiene habits and prevention and will be available should students have any questions or concerns.

### **Can my child use hand sanitizer at school?**

Yes. Under current circumstances, students may bring hand sanitizer and use it while at school. Please remind your children that hand washing with soap and water is the first, best practice in preventing the spread of illnesses such as COVID-19.

### **Can my child wear a mask at school?**

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LACDPH) continues to remind us that face masks are most effective if worn by people who are sick to prevent them from coughing or sneezing on people who are not sick and therefore spreading their illness. Masks are not an effective protection for people who are not sick. In fact, LACDPH suggests that in some instances, masks can cause more harm than good for people who are not sick. Based on this guidance, we highly recommend healthy students avoid wearing masks. Nevertheless, it is up to each family to determine if a child will wear a mask. Under ICEF policy, people who are sick should not be in school and therefore should not come to school with or without a mask.

### **What should I do if my child has symptoms of COVID-19?**

Seek medical attention, but remember that it's flu season, and symptoms of COVID-19 such as cough or fever can be similar to those of the flu, or the common cold – which are a lot more frequent.

Continue to follow good hand and respiratory hygiene practices like regular handwashing, and keep your child up to date with vaccinations – so that your child is protected against other viruses and bacteria causing diseases.

As with other respiratory infections like the flu, seek care early if you or your child are having symptoms, and try to avoid going to public places (workplace, schools, public transport), to prevent spread to others.

**For more information, please click the link to LA County site at**

<https://www.google.com/url?q=http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/&usq=D&ust=158428181897000&usg=AFQjCNGH9DV0iWShgJKheKTlaK8z9K3spQ>

### **Should I notify anyone if my child is going to miss school?**

Yes. Please notify the school office of the child's absence.

### **If my child is sick and gets better, when can he/she return to school?**

If the student has been symptom free without the use of medication for a minimum of 24 hours, the student can return to school, unless a doctor has ordered the student remain at home for a longer time period. The student needs to provide a note from the parent and from a doctor when the student has been absent for three (3) days or more due to an illness/injury.

### **How do I prevent myself or my family from contracting COVID-19?**

Health authorities remind us that the best methods to avoid contracting COVID-19 or other respiratory illnesses are by practicing the following:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the restroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. 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. If you do not have a tissue, sneeze in the inside of your elbow.
- 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.
- The CDC and CA Department of Public Health do not recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19.

### **Where can I get additional information regarding COVID-19?**

Updated, factual information regarding COVID-19 can be obtained from the following agencies:

- The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LACDPH): <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/>
- The Centers for Disease Control: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- The World Health Organization: <https://www.who.int/>

### **Who do I contact if I have a specific question regarding COVID-19 and how ICEF is addressing it?**

Two-way communication is very important and we want to hear from you. Please contact your child's school or ICEF's home office at (323) 290-6900 if you have questions, a request for additional information, or specific situations with which we can help.