



03-11-2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

In partnership with the Merced County Department of Public Health and the Merced County Office of Education, Atwater Elementary School District continues to closely monitor the novel coronavirus COVID-19. As of today, there are no confirmed cases in Merced County.

We understand the anxiety that COVID-19 has caused. We assure you - we are following all directives and protocols from public health officials to protect our schools and students.

Together we are urging members of the public and school communities to be diligent in their efforts to reduce the spread of respiratory illnesses. We will continue to provide you with updates that are pertinent to our district as this is a fluid situation that is changing daily.

The custodial staff at each of our schools has maintained high levels of sanitation procedures for classrooms, restrooms, offices, and common area spaces.

Merced County Department of Public Health and the Merced County Office of Education recommends no student travel to counties where community transmission has been confirmed (community transmission is defined as not knowing who the carrier was that transmitted the disease).

As an added precautionary measure, AESD will be *postponing* student travel to counties with any confirmed case of COVID-19, regardless of transmission route. In the event that postponement is not possible, travel may be cancelled and schools will make every attempt to provide a similar educational experience. School administration will communicate directly with trip and event coordinators to maintain communication with parents and students in regards to all postponements, cancellations, or alternate educational experiences.

As always, the safety and wellness of our students and staff are a priority. Thank you for your cooperation and support in helping us to maintain a healthy and safe learning environment.

Health and Safety Reminders:

- 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. If your child is sick, please keep them home from school.
- All children and staff members with fever (>100 F) should remain home from school and other activities until they have no fever for 24 hours, without fever medication.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched areas and surfaces.
- **Avoid unnecessary travel, and avoid travel to high risk locations with widespread COVID-19 community transmission.**