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Governing Board

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Superintendent of Schools

Julie S. Mitchell, Ed.D.

March 10, 2020

Dear Rowland Unified Families:

The safety and health of our students, staff and community is a top priority for all of us. Information and recommendations from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LACDPH), and Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) regarding the coronavirus/COVID-19 is being very closely monitored by our staff, allowing our District to respond to this current and serious situation.

There are NO cases of the coronavirus/COVID-19 in the Rowland Unified School District or surrounding school community reported to us from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

At this time, according to the LACDPH, the immediate health risk of COVID-19 to the general public in Los Angeles County is considered low. Our District, in working with Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, is proactively taking steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19. As shared in previous letters, there are actions that you can take and that our District has taken to be proactive and prevent the spread of this virus.

Preventative Actions

All students, families, and staff are expected to take preventative actions, including:

- Stay home when sick.
- Remain at 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.
- Use “respiratory etiquette” including covering cough with a tissue or sleeve.
- Wash hands frequently. Students and staff are encouraged to wash hands frequently. The supply of soap and paper towels at our schools are regularly monitored and restocked by site custodians.

Proactive Actions

As a school district, we have taken precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Since the onset of the virus, our District has taken proactive measures and instituted the following:

- Our District Lead Nurse has and will continue to work closely with the Los Angeles County Office of Education, Centers for Disease Control and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, including participating in regular conference calls with local agencies, and will keep our health professionals and school leadership informed of the latest updates.

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Mission: The mission of the Rowland Unified School District, the progressive international community united in learning, is to empower students so that each actualizes his or her unique potential and responsibly contributes to a global society, through a system distinguished by rigorous academics, innovative use of technology, creative exploration, and nurturing learning experiences.

- Since February 4, 2020, our District has followed the direction of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health requiring that any person who has returned from mainland China is required to be on a mandatory 14-day self-isolation/social distancing period and is not permitted to be in school. Los Angeles County Department of Public Health will continue to monitor the health status of all individuals during and after the self-isolation/social distancing period.
- The District has increased daily cleaning protocols, with our custodial staff cleaning high-frequent areas such as doorknobs, tables and playground equipment more frequently. Additional cleaning teams have been added to operate Clorox 360 electrostatic cleaning system machines. These machines spray disinfectant mist throughout the classroom and school facilities, including our school buses, on a rotating schedule. Again, this cleaning system is in addition to our regular daily cleaning and disinfecting.
- All of our restrooms, including elementary classroom sinks, are well-equipped with soap and towels, and custodial staff are continuously checking to ensure they are stocked so that students can wash hands regularly including before/after lunch and during breaks. Hand sanitizer is also available in every classroom.

A full list of frequently asked questions are included in this communication and available on our District website.

Again, at this time the immediate health risk of COVID-19 to the general public in Los Angeles is still considered low. Our District, in working with Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, is proactively taking steps to prevent the spread of this infection.

If you have further questions, please contact our Student Services Department at (626)935-8281.

Thank you for your support and working with us to continue to keep our students and schools safe.

Sincerely,



Julie Mitchell, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

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COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions

Information Responses as of March 10, 2020

What is the Coronavirus/COVID-19?

The coronavirus/COVID-19 was first detected in December 2019. It is contagious via human-to-human contact. Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, and difficulty breathing.

What can I do to stay healthy and prevent the spread of illness?

The most important action individuals can take is hand washing. Everyone should wash their hands frequently, with soap and water, for 20 seconds. Additionally,

- Stay home when sick.
- Remain at 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.
- Use “respiratory etiquette” including covering cough with a tissue or sleeve.
- Again, wash hands frequently. If handwashing is not possible, the use of hand sanitizer is the next best thing.

Are children at a higher risk of getting sick from COVID-19 compared with adults?

No. Health officials say very few children thus far have been infected with COVID-19, and those who have tested positive experienced milder symptoms than older patients.

Is the District doing any additional cleaning in classrooms and schools?

Yes, the District has increased daily cleaning protocols, with our custodial staff cleaning high frequent areas such as doorknobs, tables and playground equipment more frequently. Additional cleaning teams have been added to operate Clorox 360 electrostatic cleaning system machines. These machines spray disinfectant mist throughout the classroom and school facilities, including our school buses, on a rotating schedule. Again, this cleaning system is in addition to our regular daily cleaning and disinfecting.

I have plans to travel during Spring Break should I go?

Each individual family will need to make their own travel decisions. It is important to note, at the direction of the California Department of Public Health, the self-isolation requirements have expanded to all areas designated with a Level 3 Travel Health Notice, which as of today includes China, Iran, Italy and South Korea. This means that a student who has traveled to or lives with people who have traveled to an area identified by the CDC as Level 3 Travel Health Notice, are required to self-isolate and are not permitted to attend school. Additionally, those individuals who have been in close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 are expected to self-isolate and refrain from attending school for 14 days from the day of last exposure.

You must report travel of your child or of someone living in your home to your school principal. Your child will be required to stay home and away from fellow students for 14 days after his/her return to Los Angeles and before coming back to school. Any absence due to quarantine or illness will be excused.

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Should my child stay home if they have a fever?

Yes, always keep your child home if they have a fever. We recommend that all students with a fever of (>100.4°F / >38°C) or higher should remain home from school and other activities until they have been fever-free for at least 24 hours without the assistance of medication.

Can my child wear a mask at school?

Yes, if you would like your child to wear a mask at school, that is your choice. At this time, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) does not recommend routine use of a facemask or respirator, but that is a personal choice and students are welcome to wear a mask at school.

Will you cancel school activities and events?

At this time, March 10, 2020, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health and the Los Angeles County Department of Education are not recommending canceling school activities and events. This is being closely monitored and we are in daily contact with both agencies to keep up to date of any new protocols for our schools and District.

Are school field trips being canceled?

Field trips are not being canceled at this time. We are closely monitoring the locations of each field trip and are following the direction of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health and the Los Angeles County Office of Education.

Are District schools being closed?

There are no school closures in the Rowland Unified School District at this time. There are NO cases of the coronavirus/COVID-19 in the Rowland Unified School District or our surrounding school community reported to us from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

Closing schools is an extreme measure that would be disruptive to our students, staff and families. This decision would be made with the California Department of Public Health and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

Where can I find more information about COVID-19?

You can find additional resources on the following websites:

- <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/>
- <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/ncov2019.aspx>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- <https://www.ed.gov/coronavirus>

If I have a question that is not answered here or on one of the resources above, who can I call?

If you have further questions, please contact our Student Services Department at (626)935-8281.

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