



Bakersfield City School District

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March 11, 2020

To the Parents/Guardians of Bakersfield City School District (BCSD) Students and Staff:

In an effort to ensure that our students and staff have a safe school environment, BCSD has been monitoring reports from Kern County Public Health, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), the California Department of Education (CDE), Kern County Superintendent of Schools (KCSOS), and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) regarding the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). BCSD will continue to evaluate and implement appropriate measures based on recommendations from these public agencies.

The health of our students and staff is of the utmost importance to BCSD. We understand you are concerned about COVID-19, know that BCSD continues to implement and evaluate health practices in the best interest of our students and staff. It is important to note, as of March 9, 2020, **there are no known cases of COVID-19 in Kern County.**

Kern County Public Health, CDPH, CDE, KCSOS and CDC recommend the public take these steps to help prevent the spread of viruses and disease:

- Stay home if you have a fever or are feeling 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.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Use “respiratory etiquette” and cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or your sleeve when sneezing or coughing.
- Wash hands with soap and water frequently for at least 20 seconds.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Enhance cleaning consistent with CDC guidance and clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a standard disinfecting household cleaning spray or wipe.

At this time the CDC suggest to avoid travel to China, Iran, Italy, and South Korea, which are labeled as Level 3 Travel Health Notice. At this time Japan is considered a Level 2 Travel Health Notice.

BCSD is taking preventative steps to educate students and staff on the best health practices for viruses or diseases. Students will learn the proper instruction on hand washing and keeping hands away from the “T-Zone” (eyes, nose and mouth). Classrooms and restrooms will undergo additional cleaning procedures and additional sanitary supplies will be made available to schools.

In the event that COVID-19 surfaces in Kern County, BCSD will continue to work closely with Kern County Public Health, CDPH, CDE, KCSOS and CDC to determine any additional necessary action, including school closures. BCSD will inform parents/guardians, students and staff of any closures via local media, all-calls, information on our BCSD Facebook and Twitter, as well as our website, www.bcsd.com. For updates regarding the most current information about COVID-19, visit the CDC website at: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019.ncov.

Sincerely,

Doc Ervin,
Superintendent