

March 3, 2020

Dear Cypress School District Community,

The safety and well-being of students and staff are of the utmost importance in the Cypress School District. As a result, we continue to closely monitor developments related to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), while working with expert partner agencies to ensure we are providing our community with medically accurate and timely information.

Last week, officials with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) made statements that appeared to reflect a change in tone from previous communications by urging individuals, communities, businesses, local governments, and schools to be prepared should the United States experience an increase in COVID-19 cases.

In response, the Orange County Health Care Agency declared a local health emergency. It is important to remember that Orange County still has just one confirmed case—a man in his 50s who has since recovered—and the general public's risk of infection in the United States remains low. Nevertheless, local health officials believe the emergency declaration will help our county secure resources in the event of a COVID-19 outbreak.

In the meantime, the most recent guidance from the CDC remains in effect. Here are a few key points to keep in mind, including if you are planning international travel during spring recess.

- **For the general American public, who are unlikely to be exposed to the virus at this time, the immediate health risk from COVID-19 is considered low.** The CDC indicates that people who have casual contact with a case (in the same grocery store or movie theater) are at minimal risk of developing the infection.
- Foreign nationals who have visited China in the past 14 days may not enter the United States.
- American citizens, lawful permanent residents, and their families who have been in China in the past 14 days will be allowed to enter the United States but will be redirected to one of 11 airports to undergo a health screening.
- Travelers who have been in China's Hubei Province in the past 14 days will be placed under a mandatory quarantine by health officials for a 14-day period from the time they left China. Students under a mandatory quarantine order will be excused from school during this period.
- All other healthy travelers returning from other parts of China will be asked to self-quarantine for 14 days. The Orange County Health Care Agency will contact individuals who meet this criterion to provide instructions for self-quarantine upon their return. Any students who have been asked to self-quarantine will be excused from school during this period.

*We inspire and empower . . . Every student, Every moment, for Every opportunity!*

COVID-19 is associated with such symptoms as fever, cough, and shortness of breath. The CDC recommends these proven steps to help prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after using the restroom; 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.

As the status of COVID-19 continues to evolve, it is important for the public to know where to turn for factual information and resources. For the most up-to-date information in Orange County, you can visit the [OCDE Newsroom website](#), follow the Orange County Health Care Agency on social media (Twitter [@ochealth](#) and Facebook [@ochealthinfo](#)), or call the Orange County Health Care Agency's referral line with general questions Monday through Friday at (800) 564-8848.

We understand the concern that many people feel regarding the possible spread of COVID-19 and wish to reassure our community that the Cypress School District is committed to maintaining safe schools. We will continue to work with state agencies throughout this situation and pledge to keep you informed of any new developments regarding COVID-19 that could impact the health of our students and staff.

Sincerely,



Anne Silavs  
Superintendent