March 12, 2020

To Porterville Unified School District parents, guardians, family members, and community members:

PUSD is aware that the Tulare County Public Health Department has announced the first positive case of the coronavirus (COVID-19). It is believed the individual contracted the virus out of the area. While the individual was treated at Sierra View Hospital, they have been released to their home and are currently isolated and according to doctors they are doing well.

At this time, PUSD is still being advised that the risk to the students and staff remains low. However, out of an abundance of caution, we are suspending assemblies until further information becomes available. Additionally, we are reviewing all field trips and other extracurricular activities that might be impacted. As an additional precaution to ensure the safety of staff and students, with Spring Break scheduled for next week, March 16th through March 20th, PUSD custodians will use that opportunity to deep clean and disinfect all sites.

We continue to be in regular contact with local, county and state officials, including the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) in consultation with the California Department of Education (CDE) and the Tulare County Office of Education (TCOE), concerning the appropriate practices and will continue to keep the community informed.

As a reminder, PUSD and healthcare professionals are encouraging all students, families, and staff to take every day preventative actions:

- 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 of difficulty breathing.
- Use “respiratory etiquette.”
  - Cover cough with a tissue or sleeve. See CDC’s Cover Your Cough page for multilingual posters and flyers, posted at the bottom of webpage.
  - Provide adequate supplies within easy reach, including tissues and no-touch trash cans.
- Wash hands frequently.
  - Encourage hand washing by students and staff through education, scheduled time for handwashing, and the provision of adequate supplies.
- Enhance cleaning consistent with CDC guidance (see Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Recommendations).