



**Inglewood Unified
School District**

A MESSAGE FROM

County Administrator Dr. Erika Torres

March 12, 2020

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

Dear Parents and Guardians:

On [March 5, 2020](#), we communicated with you about the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). Since then, news of the spread of the COVID-19 around the world has dominated media headlines. I am in regular communication with the City of Inglewood, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH), and the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE). To date, we have not been notified of any confirmed cases of the virus among our staff or our students, nor of any other case that would threaten our schools. Your child's health and safety are of the utmost concern, so we will communicate new information as soon as we receive it.

According to the DPH, we can expect more confirmed cases in the near future. Still, DPH has communicated that students who are not ill can continue to attend school. At this time, all of our schools remain open.

If there is a situation where there is a local case of COVID-19, the DPH will work with district administration to assess and determine, on a case-by-case basis, if a school needs to dismiss or close. If there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 in an individual who has been at school, we will work with DPH to make the determination and communicate with staff, families and the Inglewood Unified School District (IUSD) community.

In IUSD, the focus continues to be on preventing spread of the illness by following basic sanitary practices. It's a good time for all of us to become prepared, but not to panic.

Here are the actions the district is taking to minimize the impact of the virus on schools and keep our students and staff healthy:

- **Disinfecting:** Custodial staff has been directed to increase sanitary measures on surfaces and high traffic areas. Custodial staff, including night crews, have been trained or re-trained to properly clean surfaces with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved solutions to have schools prepared each day for safe occupancy. Frequent cleaning of common surfaces such as faucets, water fountains and doorknobs are being completed throughout the day.
- **Hand Washing:** School site staff will continue to remind students and staff to keep hands away from their mouth/face and wash their hands more frequently to prevent potential contamination.
- **Transportation:** Transportation staff has been directed to disinfect buses daily. Sick students must be transported home from school by a parent, guardian or approved designee to limit exposure to other students.
- **Planning:** Our Educational Services team is working with principals and teachers to develop learning plans that will provide some flexibility and allow students to continue their learning in the event that school closures become necessary.
- **Absenteeism:** Inglewood Unified is monitoring daily student attendance regarding illnesses. If students are absent, parents/guardians should continue to notify the school of the reason for absences via a note or phone call.

- **Updated Emergency Card Information:** Our schools will be requesting all parents/guardians to ensure we have updated emergency contact information in our student information system in order to send communications to you in a timely manner.
- **Flu-like and Respiratory Symptoms:** Staff and students have been reminded to stay home if they experience symptoms of illness and/or fever and to remain home until they are symptom-free for at least 24 hours. In addition, we are asking everyone to refrain from sharing personal items.
- **Field Trips:** For District-approved field trips, athletic teams, local trips to museums, and other venues, we will continue to monitor recommendations from the CDC, LACOE, DPH and other governing bodies regarding each trip destination, and make our decisions accordingly.

Please continue to take all possible precautions to help reduce the risk of spreading germs to others. These include the following recommendations from DPH:

- #1 prevention method is frequent handwashing with soap and water for 20 seconds, especially after using the restroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not available, hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol can be used. Use of soap and water is best.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands. If you do not have a tissue, use your sleeve (not your hands).
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limit close contact like kissing and sharing cups or utensils with people who are sick.
- Face masks are most effective when used appropriately by health care workers and people who are sick.
- It's not too late to get the flu vaccine. Being protected against the flu will decrease the number of people using healthcare resources and allow resources to be available for people who may have COVID-19.

The most accurate information regarding the novel COVID-19 can be found on the following websites:

- Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/>
- California Department of Public Health
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/ncov2019.aspx>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019ncov/index.html>
- World Health Organization
<https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus>
- LA County residents can also call 2-1-1

IUSD will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates as needed. If you have questions about this information, please contact IUSD District Office at (310) 419-2700. We have also created a webpage on our Inglewood Unified website (inglewoodusd.com) for communications that have been shared.

Thank you for your support of our school community.

Sincerely,

Erika F. Torres, Ed.D., MSW
County Administrator