

A message from KENNEDY MIDDLE SCHOOL

Dear Kennedy Community,

We have received many calls and emails asking for an update on District response to actively monitoring student and staff health at the school sites. First, please know that our staff have been in constant contact with the Santa Clara County Department of Health and are diligently following the County's protocols for active monitoring in our schools.

Every CUSD school has health protocols and processes in place to ensure precautions are taken to prevent the spread of all infectious diseases, including common illnesses like colds and flu. The health and well-being of CUSD students and staff are of paramount concern to us all. Our staff is taking all the precautions at this point to follow directions from the County and monitoring staff and student illnesses. Responsibly, we ask that you please partner with us in this pursuit by keeping your sick child home until he or she is fever-free, without medication, for 24 hours, in accordance with our [District Illness Guidelines](#).

Please rest assured that should there be anything to report or actions required, the District will immediately follow explicit public health protocol. As school community members, it is important that you trust that we are carefully monitoring the situation.

If you have concerns about your child or others, please

share that concern in writing with the school Principal. Although we will follow up with students and families as appropriate, we will not share personal information about students and families with others. We understand that through social media platforms, some of our families are beginning to feel unsafe and targeted by others. Please allow us to investigate concerns about student/family illnesses or travel, without targeting families through any public forum. We have received many suggestions from our community on how to respond to families who have traveled or people who are showing respiratory illness symptoms. We will continue to diligently implement the protocols and requirements of the Santa Clara County Public Health Department and the Santa Clara County Office of Education in every one of these situations.

Below is a message from the Santa Clara County Office of Education and Health Department on the novel coronavirus (January 29, 2020)

The County of Santa Clara Public Health Department is working closely with our local, state, and federal public health partners to closely monitor novel coronavirus developments. We are preparing locally because this is a new and rapidly evolving situation. We have staffed our public health emergency operations center to coordinate our work. This includes working actively with healthcare providers, schools, and many other partners.

We know people are anxious and concerned about this new

virus. Because it is so new, there is still a lot we do not know, including exactly how it is spread, how easily it spreads, and whether people with no symptoms can spread the virus.

One thing we do not know is whether masks will protect you from this virus, mainly because there is no evidence of person-to-person spread in our community right now. Our best advice right now is you don't need to wear a mask since there is little risk of getting the illness.

People who have traveled to where the virus is circulating should closely monitor their health for 14 days after they have returned. If you begin to get sick with a fever, cough, or shortness of breath, stay home and wear a mask around others in your household. Call your healthcare provider and let them know your travel history and your symptoms.

If you have mild symptoms like a cough, runny nose, or sore throat, you do not need to go to a hospital emergency department. Please do not go to an emergency department unless your symptoms are more severe, such as having difficulty breathing.

If you are at home sick, please wear a mask and separate yourself from others to protect them from your illness. If your symptoms get worse, contact your healthcare provider again to determine what treatment may be needed.

With any virus, we know they spread easily in large groups

of people. If you can, avoid large gatherings, especially if you do not feel well. And if you have a fever, cough, or trouble breathing, please do not attend Super Bowl parties this weekend. Whether it's the flu or another virus, you can help us limit the spread of many illnesses by staying home when you are sick.

Responding to outbreaks like this one is what public health departments do. It is our responsibility to take action to limit the spread of disease and protect the public's health, and we thank you for doing your part.

Steven Hamm

Principal, Kennedy Middle School

File attachments:

[novel coronavirus faq.pdf](#)