January 28, 2020

Dear C-VUSD Community,

We understand the recent news regarding the one documented case of 2019-nCoV (short for “2019 novel coronavirus”) in Los Angeles County is a source of concern for our community. Please read the following important information to understand what the Public Health Department of Los Angeles County has directed C-VUSD to follow regarding the best preventative measures against all illness.

From [http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/](http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/)

“Despite this case in Los Angeles, there is no immediate threat to the general public, no special precautions are required, and people should not be excluded from activities based on their race, country of origin, or recent travel if they do not have symptoms of respiratory illness. Los Angeles residents, students, workers, and visitors should continue to engage in their regular activities and practice good public health hygiene as this is the height of flu season across the County. The risk from the novel coronavirus 2019 to spread in Los Angeles County residents is deemed to be low at this time.”

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Public Health Department of Los Angeles County recommend taking these daily precautions in order to minimize the spread of this virus and any other illness:

⇒ Travelers who are sick should stay home and call health care providers.
  • If you have recently been to Wuhan, China and have developed fever with cough or shortness of breath within 14 days of your travel or have had contact with someone who is suspected to have novel coronavirus stay home and call your health care provider immediately. If you do not have a healthcare provider or if you need to be seen at a hospital, do not go directly to the hospital. Please call the emergency room to get instructions before going in.

⇒ Stay home when you are sick.
  • Stay home from work and school and try to avoid errands when you are sick. This will help prevent spreading illness to others. If you have a fever, stay at home until you are fever-free without the use of medication for 24 hours.

⇒ Avoid close contact.
  • Avoid close contact with people who are sick. When you are sick, keep your distance from others to protect them from getting sick, too.

⇒ Cover during cough or sneeze
  • Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing or sneeze into your bended elbow. It may prevent those around you from getting sick. Flu and other serious respiratory illnesses, like respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), whooping cough, and severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), are spread by coughing, sneezing or unclean hands.

⇒ Clean your hands.
  • Washing your hands often will help protect you from germs. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub. Here is a three-minute video from the CDC about proper hand washing: [https://youtu.be/cZw4Ga3gg3E](https://youtu.be/cZw4Ga3gg3E)
Practice other good health habits.

- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at home, work or school, especially when someone is ill. Get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids and eat nutritious food.

For more information, visit the Public Health Department of Los Angeles County:
http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/

In order to maintain a safe and healthy campus, C-VUSD asks our families to follow these guidelines and requirements for keeping your students home from school:

- A temperature of 100 degrees or above
- Students must be fever-free without fever-reducing medication (such as Tylenol or Motrin) for at least 24 hours before returning to school
- Vomiting and/or diarrhea. Student may return to school 24 hours after last episode
- Uncontrollable cough or wheezing or shortness of breath
- Suspected communicable disease (i.e. chicken pox)
- Suspected infections
- A rash of unknown origin – student may return to school when written authorization is received from the health care provider
- Students must stay home for the first 24 hours on antibiotic therapy

Lastly, based on the recommendation from Dr. Reynaldo from the Acute Communicable Disease Control Program, a subdivision of the Public Health Department of Los Angeles County, C-VUSD does not endorse the idea of healthy students or staff wearing masks because of the following reasons:

- While wearing masks, people tend to bring their hands to their mouth and nose areas more often than they do while not wearing masks, which then perpetuates the spread of illness.
- Masks will be used for students who become ill and need to be isolated before going home so when healthy students wear these masks, confusion can arise when addressing student needs.

In order to help prevent the spread of illness during flu season and the concern of this new virus 2019-nCoV, C-VUSD will continue to take the following preventative measures:

- Clean and sanitize desktops each day
- Allow and encourage students and staff to wash hands frequently or use hand sanitizer when hand washing is not possible (campuses will be equipped with available hand sanitizer)
- Remind students and staff to cough or sneeze into their bended elbow or cover with a tissue
- Immediately discard any used tissues (do not reuse)
- Send any staff member or student home who is presenting signs of illness such as fever and or severe coughing
- Direct all staff and students with illness to follow the rule that anyone with symptoms must be fever free (without medication) for 24 hours before the return to the campus.

C-VUSD staff will continue to closely monitor the situation regarding this new virus and other health related concerns occurring during this flu season. If needed, C-VUSD will work with the appropriate health care agencies and provide additional updates. Please know that the safety of our students and staff is our top priority. If we all follow these important guidelines, we can help to keep our community healthy. Please share this information with your fellow community members and any caregivers who spend time with your children.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

René Valdes, Ed.D.
Director – Student Services