



CALIFORNIA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT


11 TROJAN WAY Suite 100
COAL CENTER, PA 15423

TELEPHONE: 724-785-5800
FAX: 724-785-4866
WEBSITE: www.calsd.org

MICHAEL S. SEARS
SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

To: All CASD Families

From: Michael S. Sears, Superintendent 

Subject: **Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Guidance**

Date: 3 March 2020

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is responding to an outbreak of respiratory disease caused by a novel (new) coronavirus that was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China and which has now been detected in 37 locations internationally, including 43 confirmed cases in the United States – 17 of which are travel related. The virus has been named “SARS-CoV-2” and the disease it causes has been named “coronavirus disease 2019” (abbreviated “COVID-19”). This virus is NOT currently spreading widely in the United States. 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.

This guidance applies to any new flu virus circulating during the 2019-2020 school year, not only COVID-19. The guidance recognizes the need to balance the risks of illness among students and staff with the benefits of keeping students in school. The CDC and other public health agencies will be monitoring national data on the number of people who seek care for flu-like illness, as well as the number of hospitalizations and deaths. CDC will also look at the geographic spread of flu-like illness and will look for changes in the characteristics of the virus. By comparing data on a weekly basis with seasonal flu trends from the COVID-19, CDC will be able to provide advice to state and local agencies on appropriate steps to take.

California Area School District will take the following steps to help keep students, teachers, and staff from getting sick with flu or COVID-19. These steps are to be followed at **ALL** times and not only during a flu pandemic.

- **Educate and encourage students and staff to cover their mouth and nose** with a tissue when they cough or sneeze. Also, provide them with easy access to tissues and running water and soap or alcohol-based cleaners. Remind them to cover coughs or sneezes using their elbow instead of their hand when a tissue is not available.
- **Remind teachers, staff, and students to practice good hand hygiene** and provide the time and supplies for them to wash their hands as often as necessary.
- **Send sick students, teachers, and staff home** and advise them and their families that sick people should stay at home at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever or signs of a fever (without the use of fever-reducing medicine).

- **Clean surfaces and items** that are more likely to have frequent hand contact such as desks, door knobs, keyboards, or pens, with cleaning agents that are usually used in these areas.
- **Move students, teachers, and staff to a separate room** if they become sick at school until they can be sent home. Limit the number of staff who take care of the sick person and provide a surgical mask for the sick person to wear if they can tolerate it.
- **Have Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as masks** available and ensure the equipment is worn by staff caring for sick people at school.
- **Encourage early medical evaluation for sick students and staff** at higher risk of complications from flu. People at high risk of complications who get sick will benefit from early treatment with antiviral medicines.

If the flu/COVID-19 conditions become MORE severe, the School District will consider adding the following steps:

- **Extend the time sick students, teachers, or staff stay home** for at least 7 days, even if they feel better sooner. Those who are still sick after 7 days should continue to stay home until at least 24 hours after symptoms have gone away.
- **Allow high-risk students, teachers, and staff stay home.** This decision should be made with their physician and/or health provider.
- **Conduct active fever and symptom screening** of students, teachers, and staff upon arrival at school. At the beginning of the school day, all students and staff should be asked about suggestive symptoms such as fever (warm feeling, flushed appearance, sweating or shivering), cough, runny nose, and sore throat during the previous 24 hours. Any sick students, teachers, or staff should be separated from others, offered a surgical mask, and sent home.
- **Find ways to increase social distances** (the space between people) at school such as rotating teachers between classrooms while keeping the same group of students in one classroom, moving desks farther apart, or postponing class trips.

Students, staff, and their families must take personal responsibility for helping to slow the spread of a virus by practicing these steps to keep from getting sick with the flu and protecting others from getting the flu.