

March 9, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As concerns regarding the COVID-19 virus emerge, please know that the Madera County Superintendent of Schools (MCSOS) is collaborating with the California Department of Education (CDE), the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), the Madera County Department of Public Health (MCDPH), and the schools and districts of Madera County.

While the Fresno County Department of Public Health (FCDPH) and the Madera County Department of Public Health have each confirmed a case of COVID-19 in their counties, these are isolated, travel-related cases and were NOT community-acquired. These residents are self-quarantined and the FCDPH/MCDPH says that there is no immediate threat to the general public.

We are in close contact with the MCDPH and monitoring events in our area on a continuous basis. At this time, MCDPH has not recommended the closure of any schools or programs. In our continuing efforts to keep our students and families healthy and safe, Madera County Superintendent of Schools is implementing the following protocols for the duration of the COVID-19 outbreak:

- Handwashing and hand sanitizing will occur multiple times per day, including student arrival, after recess/break, before lunch, and after lunch.
- Classroom surfaces will be wiped down mid-morning and mid-afternoon, in addition to the classroom disinfection conducted nightly by our custodial staff.
- Busses will be disinfected after students are delivered to school and following the afternoon runs.
- Student trips outside the Madera/Fresno area will be cancelled or postponed for the next month.
- In-county events will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, unless new guidance is received by MCDPH.

Beyond the MCSOS preparedness measures, here are actions that you can take to ensure we all stay as healthy as possible:

- Washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds after using the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose or sneezing.
- Clean surfaces and objects you use often.
- Avoiding touching eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoiding close contact with people who are sick.
- Staying away from work, school or other people if you become sick with respiratory symptoms like fever and cough

The Madera Department of Public Health has plans in place to protect students and families and limit exposure. We encourage you to look to trust-worthy sources of information such as the CDC (Center for Disease Control) and the Madera County Department of Public Health website and Facebook page. Misinformation can be as harmful as any disease. We encourage you to visit the Department of Public Health webpage at <https://www.maderacounty.com/government/public-health> or please visit our website at MCSOS.org for additional information.

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Superintendent