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Novel Coronavirus Information

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Dear LCER Families,

With the cold and flu season upon us and concerns about the novel coronavirus, now named COVID-19, we wanted to give you the most recent information and provide you with important tips to help you stay healthy this season and help prevent flu and other respiratory illnesses.

Imported cases of COVID-19 in travelers have been detected in the U.S. Person-to-person spread of COVID-19 also has been reported among close contacts of returned travelers from Wuhan. At this time, this virus is NOT currently spreading in the community in the United States. However, according to county officials, further transmission is expected nationally and locally and the time to prepare is now.

Given how quickly the global situation is evolving, we will be monitoring new developments and will continue to reevaluate our steps and actions. In the meantime, students and school staff should continue to practice the same precautions that they normally do during cold and flu season. To help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses, including the coronavirus and flu, follow these important tips:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Keep your children home when they are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Individuals with chronic health issues and/or individuals experiencing severe symptoms should be evaluated by a medical professional.
- The CA Department of Public Health does not recommend the use of face masks for general prevention and states handwashing provides better protection from infectious diseases.

As a reminder, if your child is sick, please keep them home from school. All children with fever (>100.4 F / >38C) should remain home from school and other activities until they have no fever for 24 hours, without fever-reducing medication.

It is important to remember that handling the spread of infectious diseases like COVID-19 is primarily a task for public health agencies. The most updated current information on COVID-19 as it presents in the United States will come from the Centers for Disease Control, at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>. If we receive additional local advisories for California or our county, we will provide updates to our school community

The safety and wellness of our students is our priority, and we thank you for your cooperation and support. We appreciate our school community and our families in helping us maintain a healthy and safe learning environment.

Feel free to contact me if you have any further questions or concerns.

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