



Dear NSD Families,

The outbreak of the coronavirus disease and its impact worldwide have created concerns within school districts about how to inform and educate school communities and how to respond if any of our students or families are stricken with this severe illness.

Currently there are relatively few confirmed cases within the United States, however, we must be conscious of the preventative measures provided by the Health Department ([www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/nCOV2019.aspx](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/nCOV2019.aspx)) and CDC ([www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html)). The Newhall District leadership and the District nursing staff have received communications from these entities and are responding based on their advice. LA County currently has only one confirmed case of novel coronavirus, and there are a relatively small number of additional cases diagnosed across the United States. However, because the risk of exposure to this new coronavirus in China is increasing over time, the US Department of Health and Human Services declared a public health emergency to allow local, state, and federal officials to fully coordinate responses in partnership with public health departments and emergency management teams.

Best practice remedies are outline below:

- **Stay home when sick.**
  - Remain at home until the fever has been gone for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicines.
  - Seek immediate medical care if symptoms become more severe, e.g., high fever or difficulty breathing.
- **Use “respiratory etiquette”.**
  - Cover cough with a tissue or sleeve. See CDC’s Cover Your Cough page (<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/prevent/actions-prevent-flu.htm>).
- **Wash hands frequently.**
  - Encourage hand washing by students and staff. Ensure scheduled times for handwashing throughout the day.
- **Routinely clean frequently touched surfaces.**

We have received several communications from the Los Angeles County Superintendent (LACOE), Debra Duardo, and communications from the California Department of Education (CDE) regarding the steps that districts need to take as preventative measures. Newhall School District has reviewed these additional resources and documents regarding the coronavirus and placed them on our District webpage under “What’s New” (<https://www.newhallschooldistrict.com/site/default.aspx?PageType=3&DomainID=8&ModuleInstanceID=856&ViewID=6446EE88-D30C-497E-9316-3F8874B3E108&RenderLoc=0&FlexDataID=7557&PageID=9>). We will continue to monitor those communications and refine our practices/procedures as advised.

Please know that we **have not** been advised that we will need to close school at this time. If it becomes necessary to close a school or schools, **we will communicate that directly to parents via our Blackboard connect system.** We will continue to update this webpage as more tools are shared from the California Department of Education. If you have

further questions, please feel free to contact the Newhall School District Nurses at 661 291-4184.

Sincerely,

Jeff Pelzel, Superintendent of Schools