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Dear Parent/Guardian:

The health and wellbeing of students and staff are always our top priority.

Recently the Los Angeles County Supervisors Office held a press conference sharing that LA County has declared a local health emergency in response to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). Further, it was shared that there are seven known cases of the coronavirus within the county. In the first case, the person has recovered. In the six new cases, the source of exposure is known and there are no cases of community transmission.

Public Health has identified persons who may have had close personal contact with these six individuals, including any friends, family members or health care professionals, to assess and monitor them for signs and symptoms of illness. All confirmed cases are being isolated and close contacts are quarantined. There are no known exposures to the public.

According to the LA County Department of Public Health (LACDPH), we can expect more confirmed cases in the near future. The focus continues to be on preventing spread of the illness by following basic sanitary practices.

It's a good time for all of us to become prepared, but not to panic.

The declaration of a local health emergency allows the local government to draw on resources from the federal and state government to assist in preparation of services in the event that a large scale outbreak occurs. Please know that school officials (Superintendent and School Nurses) are in continual contact with the county and state offices of education as well as local governmental offices and most importantly the LACDPH. As new information becomes available we will share. **In the meantime we encourage families to follow the preventive measures recommended by the CDC to avoid the virus and to follow the preparation measures recommended in case an outbreak occurs (see below).**

Recommendation for prevention from the Department of Public Health (DPH):

- **Stay home when you are sick.**
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unclean hands.
- Limit close contact, like kissing and sharing cups or utensils, with people who are sick.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash. If you do not have a tissue, use your sleeve (not your hands).
- Facemasks are most effective when used appropriately by health care workers and those directly caring for people who are sick and by people who are sick (source control). •

There currently are no school closures. DPH will work with schools to assess and determine, on a case by case basis, if a school needs to dismiss or close. If there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 in an individual who has been at school, it is not an automatic reason for school dismissal or closure. DPH will make the determination. Lastly, the DPH states there is no current need for significant "social distancing" measures in LA County, and the individual risk for contracting COVID-19 remains low for most individuals. At this time we are not cancelling any school events.

We will continue to update our District website with any new information.

<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>

Sincerely,

Jeff Pelzel, Superintendent of Schools