



DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Promoting and protecting health, well-being, self-sufficiency, and safety of all in Marin County.



March 3, 2020

Dear Administrators, Teachers, Staff, and Parents:

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This letter is to provide an update on the novel Coronavirus, COVID-19. Given the confirmed community acquired cases in California and other states, we want to respond to concerns raised by the parent and school community.

To date, there have been no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Marin residents, and still no evidence of spread of the disease in the Marin community. We are continuing to monitor travelers from China, respond to concerns, and working closely with our healthcare partners to prepare for potential disease spread. Public Health has declared a local health emergency as a preparation measure to ensure adequate resources are in place if this occurs. However, right now, the risk for COVID-19 in the U.S. and California is mainly to those in close contact with confirmed cases.

Firstly, spring break is about a month away, and international travel advisories and restrictions are changing regularly. Anyone planning to travel abroad should consult the [CDC website](#) for the latest country-specific guidance. Students and others returning from areas with widespread community transmission of COVID-19 may have limitations on activities, depending on the CDC recommendations at that time.

Secondly, we want to address concerns around school events and closures. We recommend that schools follow the [CDC's guidance](#) for communities that do not have active circulation of COVID-19. There is no current recommendation to cancel school gatherings or field trips. Decisions regarding school closures would be handled case by case, and would likely occur if a confirmed case was an employee or student of the school.

Thirdly, we are working actively with schools to advise on best practices on how to prepare and mitigate disease spread. These strategies include:

- Reviewing and updating emergency operation plans
- Promoting handwashing and good respiratory etiquette
- Reinforcing messages to stay home when sick
- Monitoring absenteeism
- Performing routine environmental cleaning
- Planning for possible school closures

In collaboration with the Marin County Office of Education and Kaiser, we will be offering an update on COVID-19 response on Monday, March 9, 2020, from 6pm-7:30pm at 1111 Las Gallinas Ave in San Rafael. The event is open to the public and translation services will be available. The event will also be on facebook live <https://tinyurl.com/tb2odfx>.

We understand that COVID-19 is causing uncertainty and stress. We are still learning about this disease. While it can cause severe illness, we're seeing that symptoms can also be mild. Young people seem to experience milder symptoms than higher risk groups, which include older adults and those with chronic health conditions. For coping with stress, students are encouraged to access school counseling resources, and parents and families can seek support through Employee Assistance Programs and through their health plan.

Thank you for joining us in a balanced and proactive response to COVID-19. We will continue to offer updates as the situations evolves. Questions or concerns about COVID-19 can be directed to our Communicable Disease Control Unit at 415-473-4163.

Yours in health,

Matt

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More Information

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
[California Department of Public Health](#)
[Marin Health and Human Services](#)

CDC Fact Sheets

[Stop the Spread of Germs-COVID 19](#)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/2019-ncov-factsheet.pdf>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/2019-ncov-factsheet-sp.pdf>