



EXCELLENCE ★ INNOVATION

Superintendent: Matt Doyle, Ed.D.

Board Members: Rich Alderson, Martha Alvarado, Debbie Morton, Rosemary Smithfield and Cipriano Vargas

Community Health Alert

March 9, 2020

Esteemed Parents, Students, Staff and Community Members,

This is the third **Community Health Alert** regarding information about the coronavirus (COVID-19) and the proactive steps the Vista Unified staff is taking to ensure the safety of all students and adults.

There is now one “presumptive-positive” case in San Diego County (click [HERE](#) for details). This person was recently traveling abroad. The San Diego County Health and Human Services held a press conference yesterday to review the situation. We have a team of over 15 employees (nurses and administrators) who are monitoring the situation minute-by-minute. We are following the protocol for cleaning and disinfecting all classroom and bus surfaces.

At this point, public health officials are NOT recommending school closures in our community. Students should continue to attend school daily.

This situation is fluid and can change by the hour. We will continue to remain in close contact with public health officials throughout the duration of this threat and comply with all of their guidance. We have developed a robust [Health and Safety webpage](#) to provide the most accurate and up-to-date information about the status of the COVID-19 virus. We will post updates to this webpage as soon as we receive them from the health officials. Please follow our twitter feed to receive instant updates on the situation [@VistaBlueprint](#).

We have a well-developed pandemic emergency plan and have met with all principals and administrators districtwide to ensure we are prepared to respond to direction from the San Diego County Health and Human Services. We are in the process of putting into place a “Vista Virtual School” platform in the event that we are directed to close schools.

Our custodial team is working hard to keep classrooms clean daily. We have also included bus disinfection in our cleaning routine. We continue to add to our inventory of needed supplies. Our staff is trained on cleaning and disinfecting classrooms, and our nurses are experts in watching for symptoms and providing guidance to families.

We are currently analyzing all of the sporting and extracurricular events that are scheduled for the remainder of the school year. It is very possible that some of these events will be cancelled out of an abundance of caution.

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The San Diego County Health and Human Services has updated their recommendations for residents to protect against possible infection. They have added a series of tips to follow in response to a public health threat. I have listed them below.

San Diego County Health and Human Services Updated Guidance

It's important for the public to be prepared should a COVID-19 outbreak occur in San Diego County. To limit the spread of infection, you should:

- *Wash your hands often to help protect you from germs.*
- *Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer, if soap and water are not available. It should contain at least 60% alcohol.*
- *Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.*
- *Clean and disinfect frequently-touched objects and surfaces.*
- *Avoid close contact with people who are sick.*
- *If you are sick, stay home and keep your distance from others to protect them from getting sick too.*
- *Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing, then wash your hands.*
- *Practice other good health habits. Get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids and eat nutritious food.*

Residents should also follow these important tips to help prepare to respond to this public health threat.

- *Store a two-week supply of food, beverages and water, including food for family pets. Ensure an adequate supply of prescribed and routine medications are on hand.*
- *Plan ways to care for those who are at greater risk for serious complications and who will take care of sick family members.*
- *If you have family members with increased risk of getting seriously sick, check with your medical providers about symptoms and treatment.*
- *Create an emergency contact list of family and friends, teachers and employers.*
- *Have a plan in case your school, child care, or employer closes temporarily.*
- *Talk with your children, family, and friends about what to do if an outbreak occurs and what each person would need.*

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The Vista Unified School District will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates as necessary. If you have questions about these topics, please contact Student Support Services at 760-726-2170 ex 92180. We thank you for your cooperation and support. Visit our Health and Safety website: www.vistausd.org/healthandsafety

Sincerely,

Dr. Matt Doyle
Superintendent of Schools
Vista Unified School District

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