



**BULLIS** charter school  
A CALIFORNIA K – 8 PUBLIC SCHOOL

February 3, 2020

Dear BCS Families,

The health and safety of our students and families is our top priority. Please read the latest information from the Santa Clara County Public Health Department (SCCPHD) on the following pages, which provides an update on the Coronavirus and guidelines to prevent the spread of the illness. It is followed by additional information from the federal government and the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE).

Principal Britson, Julie Gutierrez-Muegge, RN and I ask that all parents, students and staff -- particularly those who have recently traveled to China -- follow these guidelines to keep our community safe and well.

Sincerely,

**Brian Köhn**  
*Interim Superintendent*  
Bullis Charter School



# County of Santa Clara

## Public Health Department

Administration  
976 Lenzen Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
San José, CA 95126  
408.792.5040



Administrators:

February 3, 2020

I am writing to provide an update regarding the novel coronavirus in our county, and to share updated guidance for students and staff who have recently traveled to China.

The County of Santa Clara Public Health Department has now received confirmation from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of two cases of novel coronavirus, one on Friday January 31, and the second on Sunday February 2. Both of these cases had traveled to Wuhan, China in the 14 days before they became ill. Both have been self-isolating at home. The cases are not related to each other. We are reaching out to anyone who may have been in close contact with either case to determine whether they were exposed to the novel coronavirus. All exposed close contacts are being quarantined at home and monitored for symptoms.

To date, we do not have any evidence to suggest that that novel coronavirus is circulating in Santa Clara County or the Bay Area, and public health departments are working hard to keep it that way. As we have all been communicating, the situation is evolving rapidly, and we anticipate this pace of change to continue.

One change is that a recent published report has documented asymptomatic transmission of the virus. Asymptomatic transmission is when a person who does not yet have symptoms nevertheless spreads infections to others. How often this occurs is not known, but if asymptomatic transmission does occur, it would likely occur in the day or two before the infected individual starts showing symptoms.

This evidence of asymptomatic transmission is in part why the federal government has made the decision to formally quarantine all travelers returning to the US from Hubei province (where Wuhan city is located), China, and to ask people returning from other parts of China to voluntarily self-quarantine for 14 days since their last day in China.

Because of the concern of asymptomatic transmission, especially from travelers who returned from Hubei province, we are now asking schools to do the following:

1. If you have students or staff who have been in Hubei province within the last 14 days, please ask them to immediately return home and call the public health department during regular business hours (408-885-3980, M-F 8-5) so that we can provide guidance on monitoring themselves carefully for symptoms for the 14 days since their last day in China.
  - a. Family members of travelers who visited Hubei province within the last 14 days do not need to quarantine at home, but they should also monitor for symptoms and avoid attending large gatherings.
2. Students or staff who have been to other areas of mainland China (this excludes Hong Kong) within the last 14 days should also not come to school. They should monitor themselves for

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County Executive: Jeffrey V. Smith

symptoms for the 14 days since their last day in China. Per federal guidance being released today, they should also call the public health department during regular business hours (408-885-3980, M-F 8-5) for further guidance.

In either case, if they become symptomatic within 14 days since their last day in China with fever (including chills or night sweats), cough, or shortness of breath, they should call a healthcare provider and let them know their travel history and symptoms.

**Please do not require** a physician's clearance to return to work or school for students, employees, and other staff who have returned from traveling and are not sick. We are receiving communications that this is happening, which is impacting the medical system and preventing doctors from seeing patients who are ill.

**We encourage all students and staff to take common-sense precautions to prevent the spread of all infectious diseases, including common illnesses like colds and flu:**

- Encourage all students and staff to stay home when they are sick.
- Those who have a fever at school should go home immediately and stay there for at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever without the use of fever-reducing medicine.
- Separate sick students and staff from others in a separate place, until they can be picked up to go home.
- Promote hand hygiene through education and availability of soap, hand sanitizers, and tissues.
- Avoid touching your face, particularly your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Encourage proper cough etiquette—cough or sneeze into a tissue, sleeve, or arm. Do not use your hands.
- Perform routine surface cleaning, particularly for high-touch surfaces.
- Consider not attending or hosting large gatherings. This is where cold, flu, and other respiratory viruses are often spread.

The Public Health Department has a webpage dedicated to novel coronavirus in English, Chinese, Spanish, and Vietnamese at [sccphd.org/coronavirus](http://sccphd.org/coronavirus). We will keep the webpage updated as we know more. We will monitor the developing situation and inform you of any additional public health recommendations. We deeply appreciate your partnership in communicating this information to students and families. We also greatly appreciate everyone's efforts in staying informed, calm, and thoughtful as we all do our part to help keep our communities safe.

All the best,



Sara H. Cody, MD, Health Officer and Director

County of Santa Clara Public Health Department

February 3, 2020

Dear Administrators, Teachers, Staff, and Parents:

The CDC and state and local public health departments are continuing to closely monitor new developments regarding the Novel Coronavirus outbreak. A woman in the Bay Area who became ill after returning from a trip to China has become the ninth person in the U.S. to test positive for the Coronavirus, bringing the national total to 11. "I understand that people are concerned, but based on what we know today, the risk to general public remains low," said Dr. Sara Cody, Health Officer, Santa Clara County Public Health Department (SCCPHD). "With our large population and the amount of travel to China for both personal and business reasons, we will likely see more cases, including close contacts to our cases." Dr. Cody emphasized that there is no evidence that the virus is spreading anywhere in the county, Bay Area or Northern California. The confirmed cases are being monitored closely coupled with confidentiality as required with any medical condition. Dr. Cody also stated that there was no risk of infection for the general public from the Santa Clara County cases.

Federal Guidelines are summarized by Dr. Sara Cody below and state the following:

- 1) Any staff or student who has been in the Hubei province within the last 14 days should not attend school. They should be at home, in a separate room, with separate bath, until 14 days after last exposure to Hubei. They should monitor for symptoms and report any symptoms to Public Health. They should not seek medical care without calling ahead first and letting care providers know of their exposure history.
- 2) Any staff or student who has been in China, in a province other than Hubei province, within the last 14 days should also not attend school. This would be voluntary quarantine, with symptom watch.

Dr. Cody reiterated the importance of common-sense precautions to prevent the spread of all infectious diseases:

1. If you're sick, stay home.
2. Wash your hands and don't touch your eyes, nose, and mouth.
3. Recommends to get your Flu shot.

Below are revised health guidelines for schools in response to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' national public health emergency declaration issued Friday, January 31, 2020.

### **Updated Federal Guidelines**

As part of the emergency declaration, which went into effect today (Sunday, February 2) at 11 a.m. PST., Americans returning to the United States, who have been in China's Hubei province within 14 days, will face a mandatory quarantine and be monitored by public health officials. Americans returning to the United States from other parts of China will face enhanced screening and a self-quarantine of up to 14 days to ensure they do not pose a health risk.

### **Updated Guidelines for Santa Clara County Schools**

In response to the new federal guidelines, schools will exclude students who are under mandatory quarantine from school for 14 days from their last exposure and will communicate with Santa Clara County school districts, colleges and universities to ensure high-risk students remain out of school for the identified period. Students who are under voluntary self-quarantine will be excused from school during this period.

It should be noted that the risk to the public remains low.

### **Guidelines for Students Under Mandatory and Self-Quarantine**

Please know that Santa Clara County is committed to maintaining the privacy of our students. Our schools will work with students and families under mandatory or self-quarantine with sensitivity and confidentiality.

#### Mandatory Quarantine

- Santa Clara County Public Health Department (SCCPHD) will notify districts of any students under mandatory quarantine, who have been excluded from attending school due to recent travel from China's Hubei province within 14 days.
- Once SCCPHD has received notification these individuals are cleared to return to campus, schools will communicate with affected families to make arrangements.
- Schools will work with students to support continued learning at home.
- Related absences will be excused.

#### Self-Quarantine

- Students who have recently returned from other parts of China are asked to self-quarantine and provide schools with documentation.
- Schools will work with students to support continued learning at home.
- Related absences will be excused.

Missing school, for any reason, can cause concern and stress for our families and students. We will work collaboratively with families throughout this process. However, to maintain a healthy and safe environment for all students and families, these guidelines have been put into place.

In addition, we ask parents, caregivers or others, who may be under mandatory or self-quarantine to remain off campus as well.

### **Masks**

At this time, public health officials say there is no need to wear facemasks in the United States. However, as a precaution, students should be allowed to wear face masks on school campuses. Please note, students who are sick must follow health guidelines and should not be sent to school sick, even if they wear a mask.

### **Additional Information and Resources**

For the most up to date information about the Coronavirus, visit: <http://bit.ly/2OnX4x3>

The SCCOE in partnership with the SCC Public Health Department will continue to closely monitor this situation, which is evolving as countries and expert health agencies learn more about the Coronavirus. As we have updates, information and resources from SCCPHD or other agencies, they will be provided to our communities.