



Bellevue Union School District  
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Office of the Superintendent  
David Alexander, Ed.D.

Dear Bellevue Union Schools Staff and Families,

As the COVID-19 (coronavirus) concerns continue to increase in our nation, state and Sonoma County, we want to provide our families and staff with information that may affect you as a staff member or family.

At the end of last week, the Press Democrat released an online article about Keysight Technologies, one of the largest employers in Santa Rosa, closing to clean their facility as a result of one of their employees having flu-like symptoms. Those symptoms are similar to the symptoms of COVID-19, and this employee was a passenger on the same cruise ship that has had confirmed cases of COVID-19 among its passengers (the Grand Princess cruise from San Francisco to Mexico in February). In addition, the news regarding the confirmed case in Elk Grove may add to your concerns.

Here is what we do know at this time:

- There have been no confirmed cases of COVID-19 that affect any of the students or staff in our schools.
- Sonoma County Department of Health Services, the lead agency in our county with regard to this virus, assured us at a recent meeting that our schools are considered “low risk” for virus exposure.
- The Department of Health Services is monitoring all suspected/confirmed cases of the virus in our community and will let us know if there is any action to take regarding our schools.
- The Department of Health Services advises contacting your doctor if you have been exposed **directly** to someone who was on the cruise or if you have traveled from impacted cities or countries **AND** have flu-like symptoms including a fever, cough, and shortness of breath. For more information:

<https://socoemergency.org/emergency/coronavirus/>

State and federal law empower the local public health officer with broad authority to take all actions needed to control the spread of an infectious disease, including orders to close schools. In our county, the Sonoma County Public Health has this authority and is the lead agency in managing the county’s response to this threat. We have been assured by public health officials

that school closures are unwarranted at this time and could create unintended consequences that would hurt their efforts to protect our community. We will remain in close contact with public health officials throughout the duration of this threat and comply with all of their guidance. We will notify you immediately if this guidance changes. Many of you have reached out with questions and concerns regarding school and community travel. We are reviewing all upcoming trips for school-related activities. We understand that there is additional anxiety around travel that families have planned in the upcoming weeks and months. Currently, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has recommended against nonessential travel to South Korea, Italy, Iran and China, but there are no other restrictions or recommendations against other international or domestic travel. We will all continue to work with public health officials and monitor the situation for additional travel updates.

Our top priority is the health and safety of our students and staff, and we take this responsibility seriously and will follow the lead of the Department of Health Services public health experts.

Meanwhile, there are some things that we all can do. It is flu season and we are following the best disease-prevention practices in schools. You can also follow best practices at home, such as:

- Frequently washing your hands with soap and water
- Keeping surfaces clean
- Sneezing or coughing into a tissue or your elbow
- Most importantly, keeping your child home when they are sick with flu-like symptoms, including a fever of 100-degrees Fahrenheit or 38-degrees Celsius or higher, shortness of breath, and coughing
- Call your school if your child is staying home sick to let them know.

We will continue to work together to provide our students great schools! Thank you for your support!

Best regards,  
David

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