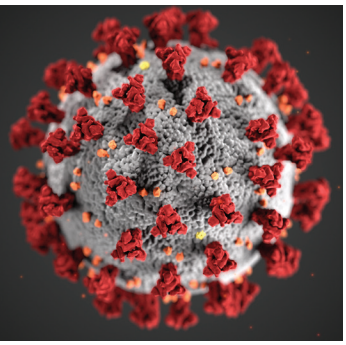
COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT



COVID-19 UPDATE

MARCH 5, 2020

Updated Recommendations for Schools

The County of Santa Clara Public Health Department is taking proactive steps to protect the health of our community. Public Health is making these recommendations in consultation with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and is based on the best information we have at this time. These recommendations are effective immediately and may be updated upon further evaluation and public health need.

GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS

The County Public Health Department currently is not recommending closing schools. If a staff member or student in a specific school is confirmed to have COVID-19, the Public Health Department will consider, based on the specific facts and circumstances of that case, whether closure of that school is warranted. The County is not recommending school closures at this time because individuals under 18 years of age have not been shown to be a high-risk group for serious illness from this virus.

As much as possible, students and staff should be allowed to carry on with their education and normal activities.

We encourage all school officials to carefully review and follow the CDC's guidance for K-12 schools and childcare centers, as well as our recommendations for mass gatherings and large events. We are aware that schools in our community may need to postpone or cancel specific activities.

Some students and staff have underlying health conditions, such as weakened immune systems, that put them at higher risk. Caregivers of individuals with these health conditions should consult with healthcare providers about whether their students should stay home.

The novel coronavirus is more likely to spread when a lot of people gather closely.

- Minimizing the number of classroom activities where students and staff are working within arm's length of one another
- Canceling or minimizing large in-person student activities, events, meetings and conferences

STAY HOME IF SICK

All students and staff should stay home if they feel sick. Make sure that your school's sick leave/attendance policies are flexible and consistent with public health guidance and that students/staff are aware of these policies. Don't require sick students to have doctors' notes as healthcare offices may be very busy and unable to provide that documentation right away.

REGULAR CLEANING

Exposure is thought to mostly occur through respiratory droplets but surfaces can still transfer the virus from person to person. Frequently touched surfaces should be regularly cleaned. Doorknobs, tabletops, counters, phones, keyboards and fixtures should be disinfected several times throughout the day. Cleaning is especially important for classroom environments where desks are shared.

ENHANCED HYGIENE

Everyone needs to follow increased hygiene measures that include:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available
- Provide hand sanitizer stations for each classroom setting and at entrances when possible
- Avoid close contact with other people
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue

STAY INFORMED

Information is changing frequently. Check and subscribe to Public Health's website and social media pages:

Website: http://sccphd.org/coronavirus
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/sccpublichealth/
Instagram: @scc_publichealth
Twitter: @HealthySCC

Santa Clara County PUBLIC HEALTH