



February 28, 2020

Dear Superintendents,

As you may already be aware, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recently announced that the coronavirus (now known as COVID-19) is expected to spread in communities in the United States. Currently, there are no reported cases of COVID-19 illnesses in San Joaquin County, but there have been reports of cases in Northern California.

The San Joaquin County Office of Education (SJCOE) is following our communicable disease preparedness plan and staying in contact with San Joaquin County Public Health Services and other partner agencies to monitor the situation. Internally we have formed a committee to focus on planning, preparation, and coordination to address the current situation. We will share additional information as it becomes available.

Attached are guidelines for schools from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) as well as other resources. We shared these guidelines when they were first issued, and the California Department of Education strongly encouraged schools to follow guidelines in a statement issued this week.

At this time, the CDPH considers the risk to the general public to be **low** but recommends that schools take the following precautions to prevent the spread of all infectious diseases:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Follow CDC's recommendations for using a facemask.
 - CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19.
 - Facemasks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others. The use of facemasks is also crucial for [health workers](#) and [people who are taking care of someone in close settings](#) (at home or in a health care facility).
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
 - San Joaquin County Public Health Services recommends that if soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Please refer to your district policy and the [California](#)

[Department of Education website](#) for guidance on the use of hand sanitizer.
Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.

This is a fluid situation. It is important that our communities receive accurate information from trusted websites such as:

- San Joaquin County Public Health Services website: www.sjcphs.org.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website: www.cdc.gov.
- California Department of Public Health website: www.cdphca.gov.

If you have questions or require assistance, please contact SJCOE Comprehensive Health Director Sheri Coburn at (209) 468-4960 or scoburn@sjcoe.net.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Troy Brown". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Troy Brown

Associate Superintendent of Student Programs and Services