



DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Promoting and protecting health, well-being, self-sufficiency, and safety of all in Marin County.



February 26, 2020

Dear Administrators, Teachers, Staff, and Parents:

Benita McLarin, FACHE
DIRECTOR

This letter is to provide an update on the novel Coronavirus, now known as COVID-19. The situation is evolving rapidly and we understand this is causing wide concern.

Matthew Willis, MD, MPH
PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER

There have been no cases of COVID-19 in Marin, and no evidence of any spread of the disease in our community at this time. We are working closely with our healthcare system, and regional, state and federal agencies to be prepared.

Lisa M. Santora, MD, MPH
DEPUTY PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER

Abroad, community spread has been confirmed in regions beyond China including Italy, South Korea, Japan and Iran, which has prompted community concern for travelers going to and coming from these destinations.

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At this time, Marin residents who have recently traveled from areas outside mainland China, including Italy, are considered low risk and are not being asked to isolate at home.

Marin residents considering foreign travel should consult the [CDC website](#) for the most up to date travel advisories. Travelers returning from areas with COVID-19 activity who develop symptoms such as fever, cough or difficulty breathing, should stay home from school or work, contact their healthcare provider and inform them about travel history.

In Marin, residents are still at low risk of becoming infected with COVID-19, and there have been no COVID-19 cases in Marin County.

Health experts agree that the measures taken so far have been effective in containing the virus but are predicting that there eventually will be community spread of COVID-19 in the United States.

We understand this is concerning, and are working closely with school leadership, our community healthcare partners, regional, state and federal agencies to closely monitor the situation and prepare for potential community spread.

The Public Health system is designed to protect the public and respond to disease outbreaks. Marin Health and Human Services will continue to provide school leadership with emerging guidance for COVID-19 control in school

settings as it becomes available. Questions or concerns can be directed to the Communicable Disease Control Unit at 415-473-4163.

Simple strategies such as handwashing and having people stay home when they are sick will be some of the most effective tools to reduce community transmission of COVID-19.

An effective way to reduce our risk of becoming infected with a respiratory virus, such as COVID-19, is to practice good hygiene:

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer when soap and water is not available
- People who are sick should always cover their coughs and sneezes using a tissue or the crook of their elbow; wash your hands after using a tissue to wipe your nose or mouth
- People who are sick should stay home from work or school until they are well
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with your unwashed hands

We stand with you to protect our school communities.

Sincerely,

Matt

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More Information

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
[California Department of Public Health](#)
[Marin Health and Human Services](#)

CDC Fact Sheets

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/2019-ncov-factsheet.pdf>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/2019-ncov-factsheet-sp.pdf>