**Novel Coronavirus COVID-19 FAQ for Schools**

**Prevention**

**Q:** How can I help protect myself?

**A:** Avoid close contact with people who are sick. Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth. Stay home when you are sick. Cover coughs and sneezes. Regularly clean and disinfect frequently touched objects. Wash hands often with soap and water.

**Q:** Should I wear a facemask to protect myself?

**A:** CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from COVID-19. A facemask should be used by people who have COVID-19 and are showing symptoms.

**Q:** What classroom precautions should be taken?

**A:** Try to give students space as classrooms allow - three feet would be ideal, but is not required. Encourage regular handwashing protocols.

**Q:** Should we discourage giving younger students alcohol based hand sanitizer?

**A:** One of the best ways to slow the spread of the disease is to wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, the use of hand sanitizers with an alcohol content of at least 60 percent alcohol should be effective. Students can use hand sanitizers with proper supervision.

**Q:** When sending a child home with a fever and/or other signs of being ill, what do schools ask of the guardians?

**A:** As with any influenza, children should be fever free (without fever reducing
Q: How will schools follow the CDC’s “frequent hand washing” guidelines?
A: The hand washing guidelines suggest washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, then the use of a hand sanitizer with at least a 60% alcohol content should help the spread of COVID-19. Districts are developing protocols to accommodate these practices and will communicate to their school sites. For example, allowing for more time between classes and allowing for access to handwashing facilities and hand sanitizers. Schools are also ensuring soap dispensers are refilled, paper towels and tissues are available and that trash receptacles are readily accessible to dispose of used paper towels and tissues.

What You Should Know

Q: What are the symptoms that COVID-19 cause?
A: Symptoms can include mild to severe respiratory illness with fever, cough, and difficulty breathing.

Q: Is a doctor’s note required for absences or to return to school?
A: No. Schools should not require a doctor’s note.

Q: If a child is feeling ill, should they stay home?
A: Yes. Children who are experiencing symptoms of respiratory illness should not attend school or other school related activities until the symptoms are no longer present.

Q: Should we continue to approve field trips within the U.S.?
A: At this point in time, approval of field trips for students and staff who are not ill, and are within the U.S., can continue. Any staff or student experiencing symptoms of respiratory illness should not attend the field trip.

Q: What if a student becomes ill while on the field trip?
A: Prior to any field trip, review the field trip permission form: The requirements and expectations not only of the students, but also of parents and guardians. Revisit required protocols if the student becomes ill or injured, and the expectations of parents and guardians in case of an emergency.

Q: Should schools cancel events, sporting activities, and other large gatherings?

A: It is not necessary at this time to cancel events. Individuals who are not feeling well should not attend events. It is important to emphasize the proper hand hygiene in various settings. Individuals at high risk should take proper precautions in accordance with the guidelines provided by the Santa Clara County Public Health Department (SCCPHD) and the CDC.

Q: What materials are available to teach about proper hand hygiene and coughing/sneezing etiquette?

A: Respiratory hygiene etiquette includes:

- 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.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.
- 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 and clean your hands.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.