

GERALD HUBER
Director
grhuber@solanocounty.com
(707) 784-8400

DEBBIE VAUGHN
Assistant Director
dlvaughn@solanocounty.com
(707) 784-8401

BELA T. MATYAS, MD, MPH
Deputy Director/Health Officer
btmatyas@solanocounty.com
(707) 784-8600

275 Beck Avenue, MS 5-240
Fairfield, CA 94533
(707) 784-8600
Fax (707) 421-6618
www.solanocounty.com

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES
Public Health Services Division



**SOLANO
COUNTY**



February 10, 2020

Dear School Partners,

Solano Public Health would like to provide an update on the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) outbreak that has been centered in China, and the measures we are recommending to protect county residents as the situation rapidly evolves. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in collaboration with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) released new guidance on Friday, February 7th for travelers returning from China that may apply to students or staff in your school system.

In line with these guidelines, Solano Public Health recommends that **any adult or child who has been in mainland China in the past 14 days and arrived on or after February 3, 2020, be excluded from school for 14 days after they left China.**

Recently returning travelers from China are considered to be at greater risk of exposure to 2019-nCoV and will be monitored by Solano Public Health for 14 days, a period when symptoms would appear in someone who was infected. Travelers who arrived before February 3, 2020 are considered lower risk and do not need to be excluded.

Solano Public Health is receiving daily lists of returning travelers from China, compiled by the CDC and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). Solano Public Health will notify your school district if a student from your district is on that list. However, if you determine that a student or staff member is a recently returning traveler from China, please notify Solano Public Health at (707) 784-8001 as soon as possible.

In the unlikely event that a student or staff member is identified at school who has symptoms of respiratory illness, such as fever or cough, AND has traveled from mainland China in the prior 14 days, separate the individual from others as much as possible and contact Solano Public Health immediately at (707) 784-8001.

Travelers returning from China on or after February 3, 2020 are being advised to avoid public activities and gatherings and to self-monitor at home by remaining alert for fever, cough, or difficulty breathing. If they develop any of these symptoms, they should contact their healthcare provider by phone, before traveling to the healthcare facility.

Additionally, we encourage schools to work with students undergoing home monitoring to arrange supports to ensure that the students get all the help that they need to stay current with their lessons. Staff can work remotely, if that is an option. There have been reports of students and others being stigmatized. We urge schools to ensure the privacy of students and staff to help prevent discrimination.

The risk of spread of coronavirus locally remains very low. Should there be a suspected case of 2019-nCoV, public health and the local health care community will respond quickly to isolate the suspected case and test for 2019-nCoV. Lab-confirmed cases will remain isolated until they are no longer contagious.

Importantly, influenza continues to circulate in our county. Schools can play a role in preventing the spread of the flu by taking these actions:

- Encourage students and staff to stay home when they are sick. Those with fever should go home and stay home until fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicine.
- Promote good hand hygiene by frequently washing hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Ensure adequate supplies are available and provided.
- Remind students and staff to cover coughs and sneezes with their elbow or tissue.
- Remind students and staff to avoid touching their face, eyes, nose, or mouth and limit close contact with people who are sick
- Perform routine surface cleaning.

We have created a webpage with regularly updated local information that is available at:

<http://www.solanocounty.com/depts/ph/default.asp>.

We understand this outbreak has caused worry and concern among our residents and will continue to keep you informed of new developments. Please do not hesitate to call us at 707-784-8001 with any questions or concerns.

We have also set up a call for schools to discuss the situation and for Solano Public Health to answer any questions or concerns that you may have. The call-in information is:

Date/Time: February 11, 2020; 11:30am-12:30pm

Call-in Number: 1-415-655-0001

Passcode: 195-122-749

Thank you for your partnership and we look forward to speaking with you soon.

Sincerely,

Bela Matyas, MD, MPH
Public Health Officer