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February 29, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Like most of you, the Sweetwater Union High School District is continuing to closely monitor the developing situation of the coronavirus (now named COVID-19). Although there are no cases in our area, as a community we want to make you aware that we are planning and preparing as a district.

As of this week, County health officials report there are only two known cases of coronavirus in San Diego County. Both individuals were on repatriation flights from Wuhan, China and are under federal quarantine at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. You may also be aware that the disease has spread to other countries and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has issued new travel warnings with increased concern for South Korea, Japan, and Italy. Travel warnings for China have not changed, and the CDC has lowered its level of concern for travel to Hong Kong and Taiwan. Additional detail about these warnings can be found on the [CDC website](#).

The CDC also recently shared that the coronavirus almost certainly will begin spreading in communities in the United States, and Americans should begin preparations now. We are working with county school and health officials to establish protocols for schools in the event that coronavirus does spread in San Diego. Be assured, we are prepared for a range of possible contingencies, such as school closures, should this situation develop. In the event that school must be dismissed for an extended period of time, we want to assure you that we will incorporate a variety of instructional strategies to connect with the home. In all eventualities, we are committed to providing you with clear, timely communications about this fluid situation.

More information will be shared as this plan develops. In the meantime, current information about the coronavirus is available on the [CDC](#) and [County of San Diego/Health and Human Services](#) websites.

As a reminder, if your child is sick, please keep them home from school. To help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses, including the coronavirus and flu, follow these important tips:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- 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.
- Individuals with chronic health issues and/or individuals experiencing severe symptoms should be evaluated by a medical professional.
- Get vaccinated every year.

Additionally, the California Department of Public Health does not recommend the use of face masks for general prevention and says that handwashing provides better protection from infectious diseases. Our District is taking the following steps:

- Monitoring the COVID-19 situation daily and working with our partners at San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency, the San Diego County Office of Education and our feeder elementary districts.
- Following guidelines provided by the California Department of Public Health and Center for Disease Control.
- Informing our staff, students, and families of proper hygiene.
- Updating our emergency plans based on the information provided by these reputable agencies to prevent spread of the COVID-19 virus and to ensure procedures are in place in the unlikely case that we have a wide-spread outbreak in Chula Vista.

The Sweetwater Union High School District will continue to monitor this situation and will be posting information on our website with resources. Thank you for your continued support of the health and wellbeing of our students, staff and the entire community.