



# Corcoran Unified School District

1520 Patterson Avenue, Corcoran, California 93212

(559) 992-8888 – Fax (559) 992-1248

March 12, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As of March 12, 2020, there are zero confirmed cases of Kings County Coronavirus (COVID-19). The Kings County Department of Public Health is closely tracking the progress of COVID-19. Plans are in place to protect residents, limit exposure, and address concerns as they arise. The immediate risk remains low for the U.S. public at this time, and there are currently no reported cases in Kings County.

Corcoran Unified, along with neighboring school districts, are in daily communication with county health officials as we work together to support county, state, and federal recommendations – including preparing for potential cases down the road that will impact our community. Health experts indicate that while future cases are likely, the most effective way to reduce one's exposure is by following simple everyday best practices to reduce the spread of germs.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water. If you don't have access to soap and water, hand sanitizer with an alcohol content of 60% or more is a great alternative.
- If you are sick, stay home.
- Avoid close contact with those who are already sick.
- Cover your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing with a tissue or the crook of your arm.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.

Today, we met with site leaders across our district to reinforce these best practices and communicate additional steps being taken to reduce the spread of any contagious illnesses. I want to share those steps with you as well.

Custodial staff is disinfecting daily those high touch areas (desks, doorknobs, and counters) in our classrooms, restrooms, offices (including the nurse's office), and locker rooms. Cafeterias and busses are cleaned on a daily basis. Teachers and site leaders will be reinforcing the importance of handwashing with all students, including conducting handwashing lessons with our elementary level kids.

Within this week and the next, we will provide sites with age-appropriate video lessons to highlight proper handwashing. We are installing alcohol base hand sanitizers in every classroom and throughout the district. We are asking sites to provide time before and after lunch, recess, and practices to wash or sanitize hands. Our district warehouse has stocked additional cleaning supplies and hand sanitizer to support this effort. Helpful posters are being placed throughout school sites and district offices to reinforce daily best practices. While the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and

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#### ADMINISTRATION

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*Superintendent*

Lora Cartwright  
*Director of Educational Services*

Elizabeth Mendoza  
*Director of Categorical Programs*

Steve Berry  
*Director of Technology*

Pamela Dihel  
*Chief Business Officer*

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state have not put any travel restrictions in the U.S., we are continuing to work with school sites to monitor field trips on a case-by-case basis.

We have also received recent “gathering guidance” from the California Department of Public Health. Direction will last until the end of the month, and the District will be providing updates as to which activities, field trips, conferences and travel in any form may be suspended or cancelled.

For additional information regarding COVID-19, we encourage parents and staff to visit these recommended online resources:

- The Center for Disease Control <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- Kings County Department of Public Health <https://www.countyofkings.com/departments/health-welfare/public-health>
- California Department of Health Services <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/ncov2019.aspx>

In addition to our internal employee communication tools, the Corcoran Unified School District will continue to utilize corcoranunified.com, Blackboard, Parent Link, Facebook, and Twitter to keep parents informed regarding the latest COVID-19 developments.

Should you have additional questions, please feel free to contact your child’s school health professional or the district’s health services office at 992-8880.

Sincerely,



Superintendent Rich Merlo