

March 6, 2020

Dear Parents,

The health and safety of students is Yuma School District One's top priority. There has been much reported about the novel coronavirus, now known as COVID-19, and District One understands the concern among parents and guardians of school-age children. We would like to take the time to address common concerns and communicate what District One is doing to ensure the health and safety of students.

Frequently Asked Questions

Are District One Schools affected by COVID-19?

District One maintains open lines of communication with the Yuma County Public Health Services District (YCPHSD), and can confirm that there are no reported cases of COVID-19 in Yuma County. For this reason, there have been no changes to school schedules or activities. We are also monitoring reports from the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to stay abreast of any new information as it relates to Yuma County.

What preparations is the district making in the event COVID-19 affects Yuma?

To ensure the safety of students, District One has taken a proactive approach to emergency preparedness. A team of district staff routinely meets to update Emergency Response Plans, review existing procedures, and attend training to stay informed of valuable resources. In addition, each school maintains a campus-specific Emergency Response Plan. By monitoring the coronavirus situation and maintaining open lines of communication with health officials, District One is equipped to respond appropriately, as advised by officials.

What is the district doing right now to protect students?

All schools at Yuma School District One practice healthy habits throughout the year to prevent the spread of cold and flu viruses. This includes regular use of hand sanitizers and cleaning wipes in the classroom and other school facilities. In addition, our Health Services team includes skilled professionals who are trained in the prevention and care of communicable illnesses.

Amid recent concerns, maintenance and custodial staff have redoubled their efforts to thoroughly and frequently clean classrooms and school facilities. Also, they have increased their workforce to ensure the frequent sanitation of commonly touched surfaces. In addition, we remind all district staff of the following recommendation by the CDC to protect against respiratory illness:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick, and keep sick children home as well.
- Cover your cough or sneeze, then immediately discard any tissues.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

If COVID-19 affects Yuma County, how will the district communicate with parents/guardians?

Should the status of COVID-19 in Yuma County change, District One will communicate with parents/guardians in multiple ways to ensure messages are received. As a reminder, please ensure your child(ren)'s school has updated contact information to include: email address, home or cell phone number, and mailing address. Since the use of Blackboard Messaging is a useful tool, we encourage you to ensure you are enrolled to receive these messages.

Where can parents/guardians find additional information?

To find current, updated information regarding COVID-19, you may visit the following websites:

CDC: Coronavirus Updates: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Also, www.Yuma.org contains links to additional resources and FAQ's

Yuma School District One is closely monitoring the situation and will update communication as necessary. Our top priorities are student safety and student learning, which is best achieved when students remain in the classroom. District One will continue its efforts to ensure that students have a safe and healthy learning environment.

If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact your child(ren)'s school.

Sincerely,

James Sheldahl
District Superintendent