

March 9, 2020

In an effort to communicate with our families, we want to update you on QCUSD's plan regarding Coronavirus. In collaboration with the Maricopa County Department of Public Health, the district continues to monitor and evaluate our practices and decisions regarding safe and healthy environments for our students and staff. QCUSD is aware of the identified case of COVID-19 nearby in Pinal County and continues to make precautions to welcome all students back after Spring Break on March 23.

We continue to encourage both students and staff to stay home when sick. While health officials have shared that COVID-19 symptoms may be mild in children, some families have asked about keeping healthy children home from school as a precaution. Parents should know that those absences will be excused.

If there were to be an outbreak in a QCUSD school, it is within the authority of the Superintendent to close schools, if necessary. Further, if COVID-19 begins to spread rapidly in our community, District leadership would examine instructional minutes and make a balanced decision about school closures in the best interest of the community. In addition, as directed by the Maricopa County Department of Health on February 28, we encourage families to have a plan for who could take care of your child if that were to take place.

Student and staff travel

QCUSD has adopted recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention regarding travel to Level 3 areas, which state **all individuals who have traveled to Level 3 countries will be asked to stay home for 14 days upon returning to the U.S.** Parents should notify their child's school of any travel to a Level 3 area including when their 14-day home stay will end. The school will excuse their absences for that period and will work with students on an individual basis to provide access to homework/coursework. Staff should also notify their supervisor of any travel plans to a Level 3 area. The district will work with employees on an individual basis to determine what accommodations will be needed to cover job responsibilities during their absence. At the time of this notice, Level 3 areas identified by the CDC include China, Iran, South Korea and Italy. [Click this link to visit the site for Coronavirus Disease Information for Travel.](#)

Field Trips

Many field trips are scheduled between now and the end of the school year, which also include some overnight and out-of-state field trips. We are hopeful all field trips will proceed as planned. To ensure the safety of our students and staff, field trip locations will be monitored and any decisions to modify travel will be based on local, state and national health agency recommendations. Families will receive updated information closer to travel time.

COVID-19 spreads through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Symptoms are thought to appear within two to 14 days after exposure and consist of fever, cough, runny nose, and difficulty breathing. Those considered at risk for contracting the virus are individuals with travel to an area where COVID-19 is spreading or individuals in close contact with a person under investigation for the COVID-19.

The best way to prevent COVID-19 and other respiratory diseases is to:

- 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.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.