**SMUSD Community Update as of March 6, 2020**

 **COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions**

The San Marcos Unified School District, in collaboration with the San Diego County Office of Education and other regional, state and federal agencies, continues to monitor COVID-19 closely.

We will continue to keep our students, staff, families, and community informed as we receive guidance from public health officials.  Below are answers to the most Frequently Asked Questions.

What is the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)?

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person.  The virus that causes COVID-19 is a novel coronavirus that was first identified during an investigation into an outbreak in Wuhan, China.  Please visit the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/W9wVFi3BYOebQ_Qe-Jx7IA~~/AAAAAQA~/RgRgRC8QP0QOaHR0cDovL2NkYy5nb3ZXB3NjaG9vbG1CCgAAkPtiXgJFUI1SGmplbm5pZmVyLm1hY2hhZG9Ac211c2Qub3JnWAQAAAAB%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) for more information.

What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

Patients with COVID-19 have a mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of fever, cough, and/or shortness of breath.  Please visit the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/W9wVFi3BYOebQ_Qe-Jx7IA~~/AAAAAQA~/RgRgRC8QP0QOaHR0cDovL2NkYy5nb3ZXB3NjaG9vbG1CCgAAkPtiXgJFUI1SGmplbm5pZmVyLm1hY2hhZG9Ac211c2Qub3JnWAQAAAAB%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) for more information.

What should I do if my child is sick?

If your child has a fever (above 100-degrees F) and/or having respiratory symptoms, please keep your child home from school and seek medical care.  Your child should remain home from school and other activities until they have no fever for 24 hours, without medication.  If your child has persistent respiratory symptoms that are not typical for him/her, we ask that a medical professional clear him/her before returning to school.

How are student absences being handled?

All absences due to illnesses are excused with parent confirmation, according to policies outlined in your school handbook and District materials.

Are there any plans to alter or cancel travel, field trips, or school due to concerns?

The District remains in close contact with the San Diego County Office of Education and public health officials and we will comply with of their guidance.

The District will continue to monitor student/staff field trips and make decisions on a case-by-case basis based on current information available.

What should we do if we were planning to travel during Spring Break?

Please visit the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/W9wVFi3BYOebQ_Qe-Jx7IA~~/AAAAAQA~/RgRgRC8QP0QOaHR0cDovL2NkYy5nb3ZXB3NjaG9vbG1CCgAAkPtiXgJFUI1SGmplbm5pZmVyLm1hY2hhZG9Ac211c2Qub3JnWAQAAAAB%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) and the [United States Department of State](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/SiiQ1fzNWoI-Optd0aN5MA~~/AAAAAQA~/RgRgRC8QP0QXaHR0cDovL3RyYXZlbC5zdGF0ZS5nb3ZXB3NjaG9vbG1CCgAAkPtiXgJFUI1SGmplbm5pZmVyLm1hY2hhZG9Ac211c2Qub3JnWAQAAAAB%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) for travel guidelines.

Training has been provided to our custodians regarding proper cleaning procedures.  We are emphasizing cleaning frequently touched surface such as desks, tables, doorknobs and light switches using state-recommended cleaning procedures.  School buses are also being disinfected on a daily basis.

Is the use of an alcohol-based hand sanitizer permitted in schools?

Yes, in accordance with the Health Schools Act (2014).  Please visit the [California Department of Education](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/_98KAHBOEhl28cnmFBelTA~~/AAAAAQA~/RgRgRC8QP0QVaHR0cDovL3d3dy5jZGUuY2EuZ292VwdzY2hvb2xtQgoAAJD7Yl4CRVCNUhpqZW5uaWZlci5tYWNoYWRvQHNtdXNkLm9yZ1gEAAAAAQ~~%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) for more details.

San Marcos Unified School District is committed to the safety of our students and staff. We remain in close communication with public health officials and will comply with their guidance.

Our best approach is taking preventative steps. If your child is sick, please keep them home from school. In addition, please follow these important tips:

1. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer when soap is not available;
2. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands;
3. Avoid close contact with people who are sick;
4. Stay home when you are sick and call your school to report fever or respiratory symptoms;
5. Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, throw the tissue away, and wash your hands;
6. Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces;
7. Individuals with chronic health issues and/or individuals experiencing severe symptoms should be evaluated by a medical professional; and
8. Get the flu shot, if you have not received it already.

We will continue to keep our community informed of the most updated.