

## **San Marcos Unified School District**

### **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](#) 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](#) 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.

#### **If a parent chooses to keep their child home from school for cautionary reasons, will the absence be marked as excused?**

We understand and share our community's concern about student health and safety. Some families have asked about keeping their child home based on the concern or fear of contracting COVID-19 at school.

Although California Education Code attendance guidelines have not changed, it is a parent / guardian prerogative to keep their children home from school. The District will be suspending future SARB truancy letters. This suspension will continue through March 31, 2020. This guidance will be updated in the future to determine possible extension into April 2020.

Our normal protocol remains in place. If a student is out for an extended period of time, a doctor's note may be required. We have asked principals to work with teachers to provide makeup work for students. Any absence due to quarantine or illness will be excused.

### **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](#) and the [United States Department of State](#) for travel guidelines.

### **Are additional cleaning procedures taking place at schools and in classrooms?**

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](#) for more details.

### **What is the District's plan regarding school closure?**

We understand that there are concerns about this virus. Based on the current information received, the health risk to the general public in California remains low.

The California Health and Safety Code provides local health officers with the authority and responsibility to control communicable diseases or the occurrence of additional cases. The San Marcos Unified School District continues to work closely with public health officials and will follow their guidance.

### **How will the San Marcos Unified School District community learn about possible school closures and dismissal?**

The District will continue to use our SchoolMessenger system, social medial and [District website](#) to update our community.