



“OUR CHILDREN – OUR FUTURE”

Ravenswood City School District

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

2120 Euclid Avenue, East Palo Alto, California 94303
(650) 329-2800 Fax (650) 325-3015

Board Members:

Ana Maria Pulido, President
Sharifa Wilson, Vice President
Stephanie Fitch, Clerk
Marielena Gaona- Mendoza, Member
Tamara Sobomehin, Member

Gina Sudaria
Interim Superintendent

Coronavirus/COVID-19 Guidelines, March 9, 2020

Sent via Constant Contact and Outlook

Hello Everyone,

Thank you for your continued cooperation, attention and flexibility during this time. While coronavirus continues to dominate the news, please know that the San Mateo County Health Department ([SMC Health](#)) and San Mateo County Office of Education ([SMCOE](#)) continue to support all of the Superintendents in our County with respect to proper responses to questions and the management of COVID-19. For your reference, we have created a Coronavirus (COVID-19) [webpage](#), and we will keep it updated with the latest information that we have. Additionally, the San Mateo County COVID-19 Public Call Center is now live. Call takers are available to answer non-emergency questions about COVID-19 between 7 am to 7 pm, Monday through Friday. The number is 211, and a language line is also available for non-English speaking callers.

How COVID-19 Spreads

We have learned that this virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person.

- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.
- People are thought to be most contagious when they are most symptomatic (the sickest).
- Some spread might be possible before people show symptoms; there have been reports of this occurring with this new coronavirus, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads.
- It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads.

Take Care of Yourself

Remember that personal precautions continue to be an important defense in this situation. While much is still not known, all the health departments ([SMCHD](#), [CA Department of Public Health](#), [CDC](#)) recommend practicing the same guidelines that prevent flu. Please take these actions and teach your family members to do the same:

- Wash your hands with soap and water. If you do not have water, use alcohol-based hand sanitizers.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Don't touch your face, particularly your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Remember to use proper cough etiquette—cough or sneeze into disposable tissue, immediately discard it, and then wash your hands or clean with hand sanitizer.
- Use a barrier, such as a paper towel or tissue, to touch commonly touched surfaces, such as any door handles or elevator buttons.
- Stop shaking hands. Consider a fist or elbow bump, or a slight bow.

- If a student develops a fever at school, they will be sent home and they need to stay home until at least 24 hours after they are fever-free without the use of fever-reducing medicine.

Hand Washing and School Cleaning

Sites will see that students engage in regular hand washing using either soap and water or alcohol-based sanitizer throughout the day. Sites are posting signs and reminders.

Our custodians are concerned about the staff and students' good health and they met last week to review cleaning protocols. Our custodial staff is trained to use a hospital-grade disinfectant. They plan to spend particular time disinfecting high touch areas in our schools such as bathrooms, sinks, doorknobs, light switches, etc. Busses will be cleaned daily at the end of the day. It is an added burden to manage this level of cleaning so we will refrain from asking our custodians to do additional set up or event work which would take them away from this clear cleaning and disinfecting priority.

Speaking to Your Children

Your children may be asking you questions about COVID-19. As you know, there is no "right way" to talk to children about hard subjects. However, this article from *The New York Times* article entitled "[How to Talk to Kids about Coronavirus](#)" provides a helpful frame for the conversation. . One of the biggest threats of this outbreak is to our humanity to one another: that assumptions or rumors are spread based on where someone may have visited, their ethnicity or something someone said. Please be a proactive advocate for acceptance and tolerance during this time of heightened anxiety and tell your site administrator if you have concerns.

Non-essential Gatherings/Activities

San Mateo County Health Officer recommends that all non-essential gatherings and activities be canceled, postponed or done remotely. This does not apply to schools, which are an essential activity, though the District is to make decisions about extra-curricular activities. Report Card conferences will be held this week. Each school principal, in consultation with me, will send a notification in advance about event cancellations at your school(s). Field trips have been canceled for this month. Non-essential volunteer programs coming into classrooms have been suspended until further notice to adhere to the recommendation and to keep the well-being of volunteers who may be in higher risk groups for COVID-19 in mind. We will review circumstances and make decisions about later events by the beginning of April. We will continue to communicate these decisions as the time draws closer.

School Closures

There are schools in the Bay Area that have experienced potential contact with COVID-19 and have had to close for deep cleaning. I don't know if we will have to close a school or schools at this time for deep cleaning. If schools close, it will be at the direction of SMC Health in collaboration with SMCOE. Should the District have to close schools for an extended period of time, a Distance Learning Plan would need to be implemented. This is new territory for us and every other school district in our county and we are already looking into what it might entail.

Be well,



Gina Sudaria, Interim Superintendent