2/3/2021

Dear San Lucas Union Elementary School District Families and Staff:

On Feb 2, 2021, two positive COVID-19 case were confirmed in one of our classrooms. We understand that since this is a small town, some of you may know the names of people or families involved, but you should still respect everyone’s personal health privacy. The impacted classroom is now on distance learning and we want to make sure you understand the school’s many rules regarding health and safety which, if followed correctly, would allow us to stay on in-person learning even when a positive case presents itself.

First, San Lucas School has the following measures in place to reduce the spread of COVID19 at school:

* The school has an up to date HVAC system
* The classroom windows are open to provide ventilation
* The classrooms are equipped with air purifiers
* The students wear masks
* Social distancing is in place
* Hand washing and hand sanitizing are encouraged and conducted frequently
* Masks only come off during lunchtime eating, while students remain in their seats – if a student walks around the classroom without their mask on, *this compromises the classroom’s safety and leads to distance learning*

These measures are based on guidance from the CDC, the WHO, and the Governor’s office for the State of California. Research has shown that that schools with social distancing and mask wearing are much less likely to be sources of COVID19 transmission than the neighborhoods in which the students reside. Research has also shown that children are less likely to get coronavirus than adults, that air ventilation is important, and that hand washing supports optimal health. Finally, research and the state law asks families to stay at home unless performing an essential task such as work or grocery shopping; to stop socializing with large groups of friends; and to wear masks when out in public. These rules were created with the purpose of protecting people from a virus that has now killed two million individuals.

Please help us stay open by doing the following:

* Do not attend house parties or gatherings; if you intend to socialize against government orders, please keep your child on distance learning
* Wear a mask when you walk up to pick up your child; the county of Monterey can fine you $100 for not wearing a mask
* Make sure your child is wearing a mask when they come to school
* Notify the school if anyone at home shows any symptoms of sickness and keep your child on distance learning

When you are self-quarantining, you should make every effort to stay at home and reduce interaction with others. The purpose of the quarantine is to reduce the chance of transmitting the virus. It is recommended you separate from others, wear a face mask, clean hands and surfaces often, and avoid sharing personal items. Be observant of your personal health, in case you start showing symptoms of sickness, such as fever, cough, and shortness of breath.

[Coronaviruses](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html) are a large group of viruses that are common among animals and humans. This novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19 is a newly discovered coronavirus causing respiratory illness that has not been previously detected in animals or humans. The source of this virus is not yet known. Symptoms can include fever, cough and shortness of breath and can appear 2-14 days from exposure. Anyone experiencing symptoms should self-isolate and contact your doctor immediately.

For specific information on the COVID-19 virus, we recommend reviewing information from the following online sources:

* https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html
* https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/ncov2019.aspx
* https://www.co.monterey.ca.us/government/departments-a-h/health/

Sincerely,

Jessica Riley

Superintendent/Principal