



SANTA MONICA - MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

March 11, 2020

Superintendent's Message: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

Dear parents, guardians and staff,

The World Health Organization officially declared Coronavirus (COVID-19) a pandemic, as of this morning. We do not have any confirmed cases at SMMUSD. Our Emergency Operations Center is activated and our team met today to discuss updates to the current situation. There are now two cases of community spread in Los Angeles County. We are taking additional precautions that include:

- Our schools, preschools, before and after-school care and CREST programs remain open.
- We have cancelled our annual Stairway of the Stars concerts and rehearsals, as these are large gatherings with students from multiple schools involved and large audiences. Please refer to the [FAQ](#) to learn how to request a refund or donate to the program.
- We are taking steps to cancel or postpone field trips, overnight trips and other gatherings of groups of students / adults, such as assemblies, open house, performances, fundraising activities, parent meetings, and other group activities, in the abundance of caution. This includes during school and after hours. Your principal or advisor will communicate plans with you. We have a few high school groups with international travel planned over spring break. Your principal or advisor will provide updates to families involved as information is available.
- If you are sick, please do not come to school. Any parents, staff, students and visitors with symptoms of fever and/or respiratory infection or who have a travel history within the last 14 days to an area identified by the CDC as Level 3 Travel Health Notice, will not be admitted to school. We seek parents' full cooperation in self-identifying by not coming to school if you are sick or have traveled to one of these areas. [Travel restriction information](#). Advice from the LACDPH changed today to stay home for 72 hours after a fever, not the 24 hours recommended yesterday.

We are staying nimble in order to be ready for any new direction by our lead agencies, including Los Angeles Department of Public Health (LACDPH), Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), California Department of Public Health (CADPH) and the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

We are conferring with both the City of Santa Monica and City of Malibu, other westside cities, school districts and local hospitals, regarding this pandemic and how best to move forward with educating students while keeping everyone healthy and safe. The City of Santa Monica and City of Malibu Coronavirus website links are in our [FAQ](#).

With regard to school closures, we are following direction from LACDPH regarding any school closure. We have not been directed to close any schools at this time. Public school districts in our area including Beverly Hills, Culver City, Los Angeles Unified and Manhattan Beach remain open.

We are monitoring this situation carefully. The health and safety of our students is our top priority. Please refer to our [FAQ](#) for more information and resources.

Most importantly:

Stay home when sick- 72 hours after fever AND/OR persistent cough

Stop the Spread- Wash or use hand sanitizer frequently. Cough & sneeze in your elbow

For accurate and up-to-date information refer to

<http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/>

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Dr. Ben Drati, Superintendent