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Robert G. Nelson, Ed.D.

March 9, 2020

Dear parents and guardians,

This weekend, the Fresno County Department of Public Health confirmed its first case of COVID-19 involving an individual who recently returned from a Grand Princess cruise. This case was travel related and not a community acquired illness. The individual is sheltering at home while the Fresno County Department of Public Health monitors their recovery. Despite this confirmed case, the health risk to the general public in California from COVID-19 continues to remain **low**.

Fresno Unified, along with neighboring school districts, are in daily communication with county health officials as we work together to support county, state and federal recommendations – including preparing for potential cases down the road that will impact our community. Health experts indicate that while future cases are likely, the most effective way to reduce one's exposure is by following simple every day best practices to reduce the spread of germs.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water. If you don't have access to soap and water, hand sanitizer with an alcohol content of 60% or more is a great alternative.
- If you are sick, stay home.
- Avoid close contact with those who are already sick.
- Cover your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing with a tissue or the crook of your arm.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.

Today, we met with site leaders across our district to reinforce these best practices and communicate additional steps being taken to reduce the spread of any and all contagious illnesses. I'd like to share those steps with you as well.

Custodial staff is disinfecting daily those high touch areas (desks, doorknobs and counters) in our classrooms, restrooms, offices (including the nurse's office), and locker rooms. Teachers and site leaders will be reinforcing the importance of hand washing with all students, including conducting hand washing lessons with our elementary level kids. Athletic teams will be eliminating shared water stations and replacing with paper water cups and/or encouraging athletes to bring their personal water flasks. End of game handshakes are being replaced with fist and forearm bumps.

This week, we're providing sites with age-appropriate video lessons to highlight proper handwashing. We are asking sites to provide time before and after lunch, recess and practices to wash or sanitize hands. Our district warehouse has stocked additional cleaning supplies and hand sanitizer to support this effort. Helpful posters are being placed throughout school sites and district offices to reinforce daily best practices. While the CDC and state have not placed any travel restrictions in the U.S., we are continuing to work with school sites to monitor field trips on a case by case basis.

For additional information regarding COVID-19, we encourage parents and staff to visit these recommended online resources:

- The Center for Disease Control <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- Fresno County Department of Public Health <https://www.co.fresno.ca.us/departments/public-health>
- California Department of Health Services <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/ncov2019.aspx>

In addition to our internal employee communication tools, Fresno Unified will continue to utilize Fresnounified.org, Peachjar and SchoolMessenger to keep parents informed regarding the latest COVID-19 developments. For a list of frequently asked questions, please visit the "Announcements" section on the district website.

Should you have additional questions, please feel free to contact your child's school health professional or the district's health services office at 457-3301.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert G. Nelson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Robert G. Nelson, Ed.D.
Superintendent