

Forestville parents and guardians,

I wanted to share some updates and information we are getting from the county and state regarding the Coronavirus and how it pertains to Sonoma County at this point.

I am working with the county office of education and with other local superintendents to send out the same information to our families and staff so we are all kept as informed as possible.

Here are the updates:

- Local Emergency Declared

Yesterday, a local emergency was declared after a new presumptive positive case of COVID-19 was identified within the county. You may have heard that The Healdsburg School (NOT Healdsburg High School or public schools) closed today because of an abundance of caution. At this time, we have not been advised by the county health officer that public school closures are necessary. Healdsburg School is a private school and at this point, they appear to be extra cautious until they can determine exactly what steps to take next.

- Infectious Disease Plan

Currently, there is a draft Infectious Disease Plan under review by the County Health Department and we hope to hear back today for their approval. The plan will give the County School Districts a clear direction if an outbreak occurs.

- Safety Precautions

With news of another case of Coronavirus within Sonoma County, we are encouraging students and staff to be diligent about hygiene. These include:

- Stay home if you have a fever or are feeling sick.
- If you feel sick, call your doctor before going to the hospital to seek treatment
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when sneezing or coughing.
- Wash your hands with soap and water often. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available
- Routinely clean frequently touched surfaces. Our custodial staff will continue to pay attention to these surfaces.
- The flu vaccine will not protect against COVID-19, but it is highly recommended to help keep you healthy.

- Preparing for Possible School Closures

Although I hope it will not be necessary, we have begun planning ways to support our students, if there is a school closure. Sonoma County Office of Education's Internet Technology and Educational Support Services team is meeting this week to discuss how they can support districts should it be needed. Teachers should be thinking of lessons and activities that can be accomplished at home that support what is being taught currently. If a closure is deemed necessary, the County Health Department will direct me as to when and for how long the school will be closed.

- Next Steps

The SCOE Communications team is attending regular meetings of the county's Emergency Operations Center and Joint Information Center. They are in constant contact with the County Districts and are keeping us posted on any and all new information. We want to reiterate there is no need to panic or raise widespread concerns. For more information, please follow the link below.

<https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/Health/Press-Releases>