



USD 330 Mission Valley School District

Home of the Vikings

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Dear Parent, Guardian, Patrons & Staff:

We are writing to make you aware that USD 330 Mission Valley is monitoring the Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation and reviewing information from health experts in the planning process for the potential impact that it may have on communities and schools across the country, state and locally. USD 330 Mission Valley values the health and safety of our students, staff, patrons and communities. We will work closely with federal, state, and local experts to ensure that we have a thorough and appropriate plan to protect and educate our students. USD 330 Mission Valley encourages you to stay informed and seek information from reliable resources such as the ones provided in this letter.

As part of keeping our school safe from other illnesses we also encourage that all parents take necessary steps to have their child/children's immunization up-to-date. Students who are properly immunized not only are better protected from becoming ill from other various illnesses but also make it safe for other students, especially those who have immunodeficiency related health problems.

The Wabaunsee County Health Department carries all childhood immunizations, and can provide them to children who have KanCare/Medicaid. If you have questions regarding school immunizations please contact your families' health provider, the school, or your local county health department.

USD 330 Mission Valley	1-866-557-6686
Wabaunsee County Health Department	1-785-765-2425
Shawnee County Health Department	1-786-251-5600
Kansas Department of Health and Environment	1-785-296-1500

Thank you for your time and cooperation. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact USD 330 Mission Valley Schools.

Respectfully,

William J. Clark
USD 330 Mission Valley
Superintendent/Director of Special Services

Enclosed: Coronavirus 2019 Novel (COVID-19) Information and Resources

Clinton Lambotte--President
Jim Rudeen

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USD 330 Board of Education
Jacob Durkes

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COVID-19 GENERAL INFORMATION

A new coronavirus called 2019 Novel (new) Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) was first found in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. This virus had not been found in humans before. This coronavirus can lead to fever, cough and trouble breathing or shortness of breath. The World Health Organization has declared a global health emergency, there are thousands of diagnosed cases in China and new cases being diagnosed in a number of countries including the United States.

What do we know? Since this virus is very new, health authorities continue to carefully watch how this virus spreads. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is working hard to learn as much as possible about this new virus, so that we can better understand how it spreads and causes illness. The CDC considers this virus to be a serious public health concern. Based on current information the CDC recommends avoiding travel to China. Updated travel information related to 2019-nCoV can be found at <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/warning/novel-coronavirus-china>

How Does 2019 Novel (New) Coronavirus Spread? Health experts believe the virus probably spreads from animals to humans and from person to person. It's not clear yet how easily the virus spreads from person-to-person. In the United States, the risk of COVID-19 for the general public is low. Therefore, there is no need to cancel school or social events, and there is no need for students or school staff to wear surgical masks at school.

Prevention? There are currently no vaccines available to protect against this virus. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) recommends the following ways to minimize the spread of all respiratory viruses, including COVID-19

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touches objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing. If you use a tissue, throw it in the trash.
- CDC recommends that travelers avoid all travel to China.

Symptoms--Information to date suggests that COVID-19 causes mild-to-moderate illness and symptoms like the flu, including fever, cough, and difficulty breathing.

Are visitors from China being screened? Yes, as of February 2nd new screening protocols are conducted for individuals entering the US from China at designated airports; Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York and Atlanta.

PreK-12 schools may have students who attend school and have traveled to various areas in Asia, including China. Students should not be excluded from school or any school activities based on race, country of origin, or recent travel (or a family member's recent travel), including to any part of China. Schools may only exclude a student if a local health department informs the school that a student must comply with a quarantine order or the student is symptomatic of a communicable or infectious disease pursuant to Education Law.

This is an emerging, rapidly changing situation. For questions please contact your local department of health or the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Response hotline: 1-877-427-7317. We encourage you to keep up to date about COVID-19, its treatment and prevention by visiting the following websites:

Harvard Health, Coronavirus Resource Center:

<https://www.health.harvard.edu/diseases-and-conditions/coronavirus-resource-center>

CDC's Dedicated COVID-19 Website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Kansas Directory of Local Health Departments: http://www.kdheks.gov/olrh/download/health_directory.pdf

Kansas Department of Health and Environment-School Health: <http://www.kdheks.gov/c-f/school.html>

Kansas State Department of Education, Safety Specialist(s): <https://www.ksde.org/Kansas-Safe-Schools>

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