BISHOP UNIFIED
◆ S C H O O L   D I S T R I C T ◆

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March 9, 2020

Information and Guidance for the BUSD Community Re: Coronavirus (COVID-19)

The following is a combination of updated and direct information from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), California Department of Education (CDE), and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) about the transmission and severity of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) as it relates to our school community.

COVID-19 is a respiratory illness caused by a novel virus that has been spreading worldwide. Community-acquired cases have now been confirmed in California. COVID-19 seems to more severely impact older people, especially those with underlying health conditions. Children seem to be at the lowest risk. We gain more information about this situation daily and will continue to do our best to respond in a way that is proactive, prioritizes student safety, and is well communicated to all of our stakeholders. **Outlined here are recommendations and action items for the public as well as the school district.**

Prevention - What you can do:
- CDPH reiterates that, "We understand Californians are concerned about the spread of COVID-19 and remind them that the best way to protect yourself and others is by **washing your hands** [for at least 20 seconds with soap and water] , **covering your sneeze or cough** [with your elbow or a tissue], **staying away from others who are sick,** and **staying home if you are sick.**"
- If you had a fever, remain at home until the fever has been gone for 24 hours.
- If you or someone in your household has traveled to an area in the last 2 weeks that has been identified by the CDC as "Level 3 Health Notice" or have had contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19, please do NOT come to school. Report to Inyo County Public Health immediately.
- Encourage everyone in your household over the age of 6 months to get the flu vaccine.
- Make sure your contact information is updated in our student database for effective communication including phone number(s), home address, email(s), & contact list/names.

Prevention - What we are doing:
- All student and staff attendance incentives have been put on hold. Traditional expectations such as requiring a doctor's note for consecutive absences due to illness will be laxed and dependent on each family's individual circumstances.
- Student restrooms have all been stocked with soap and paper towels. Staff has communicated to students the importance of regular and effective hand washing.

- Custodial staff have increased their frequency and enhancement of regular cleanings, focusing on touch surfaces on all campuses. All campuses and school buses will get a thorough and deep clean over Spring Break while students are not at school.
- Lysol disinfectant spray has been provided for every classroom, school bus, and gathering area.
- Students and staff who present with a fever and/or respiratory infection systems will be sent home immediately.
- Teachers shall begin to develop lesson plans which outline how curriculum would be offered/structured for students using a distance learning model if intervention measures are required in the future.
- Each site's Comprehensive School Safety Plan is in the process of being updated to include specific procedures to address an infection disease outbreak.
- We will contact Inyo County Public Health if we notice a spike in absenteeism.
- Office staff will maintain updated contact information for all students in our student database.
- Updated information and resources will be shared via AERIES Communication and on our website: www.bishopschools.org.

Outlined below are considerations recommended by CDPH for district-wide intervention if:
  I.   There are two or more community transmission cases
  II. One student or staff member tests positive
  III. Multiple schools within a school district with a student or staff member testing positive
*Please keep in mind, BUSD is NOT currently in a situation requiring intervention.

I. Measures to be taken if there are *two or more community transmission* cases

If our local public health department at any point confirms two or more community transmission cases, but no individuals (staff or students) at the school have tested positive for COVID-19, in addition to the prevention items listed above, CDPH recommends that we implement the following:
- Staff with any fever and/or respiratory infection symptoms should not come to work. Staff should self-screen themselves for symptoms before interacting with students.
  - Sick leave policies allow staff to stay home if they have symptoms of a respiratory infection.
- Limit visitors to the school.
- Consider and implement alternatives to large group gatherings such as assemblies, recess, and lunch such as conducting assemblies via the internet, using schools' speaker systems for announcements, staggering recess and lunch times by individual classrooms, etc.

II. Measures to be taken if *one student or staff member* tests positive
- Consider school closure
  - Closing schools is a difficult decision as it has impacts on families and employers. CDPH will continue to assess the situation and provide information to districts as needed.

- Communicate school closure plans and procedures to families and the community. Include information for parents re: labor laws, disability insurance, paid family leave, and unemployment insurance. The CA Labor and Workforce Development has guidance for this: labor.ca.gov.
- Provide guidance to the community about the importance of community social distancing measures while school is closed, including discouraging students and staff from gathering elsewhere.
  - Measures may include canceling group events, religious or cultural services, after-school classes, and sporting events.
- Develop a plan for continuity of educational services and meal programs.
- Collaborate with Public Health to determine readmission criteria and timing after school closure.
- Consult with Public Health and follow CDC guidelines to determine what additional cleaning protocols should be deployed at the school prior to reopening.

III. **Measures to be taken if *multiple BUSD schools have a student or staff member* test positive**
- Initiate school closures.
- Consult with Public Health to determine the length of time recommended for school closures.
- Develop and carry out communication plans for school closures to include outreach to all stakeholders.
- Develop and communicate a plan for continuity of educational services and meal programs.
- Implement distance learning plans for students according to comprehensive school safety plans.
- Provide additional guidance re: social distancing measures.
- Continuously communicate and consult with Public Health to determine cleaning protocols and other additional steps needed for schools to reopen.

While the health risk to the general public in CA and in Inyo County remains low, the outbreak of COVID-19 has created alarm among many community members. We recognize the importance of effective communication of relevant information and policies and hope to avoid school absences unless they are necessary. Our priority remains student safety and learning, and will continue to share broad guidance as well as concrete steps we can take now and in the future. We will remain in contact with Inyo County Public Health and regularly reference the CDPH, CDE, and CDC for further information regarding medically fragile populations, enrollment/attendance implications, and additional support.

BUSD school office numbers
(to update contact information):
Bishop Elementary: (760) 872 - 1278
Home Street: (760) 872 - 1381
Bishop High: (760) 873 - 4275
Palisade Glacier: (760) 938 - 2001

Public Health & NIH
Inyo County Public Health: (760) 873 - 7868
inyocounty.us
Bishop Pediatrics: (760) 873 - 6373
Northern Inyo Hospital: (760) 873 - 5811
nih.org

For BUSD Employees:
California's Valued Trust (CVT):
(888) 632-2738 mdlive.com/cvt

Respectfully,

Katie Kolker
BUSD Interim Superintendent