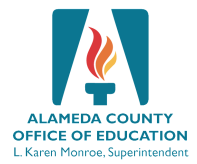




Erica Pan, MD, MPH
Interim County Health Officer
Alameda County Public Health Department
Alameda County Health Care Services Agency
(510) 267-8000
www.acphd.org



L. Karen Monroe
Superintendent of Schools
Alameda County Office of Education
(510) 887-0152
<https://www.acoe.org/alameda>

January 27, 2020

Dear Administrators, Teachers, Staff, and Parents:

The CDC and state and local public health departments are closely monitoring developments regarding an outbreak caused by a novel (new) coronavirus first identified in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. The first case in the United States was announced on January 21, 2020 in the State of Washington. Public health departments are working to identify anyone who might be infected to prevent further spread of the outbreak. To date, there are no confirmed cases in Northern California and Alameda County residents are at low risk of becoming infected.

When new viruses surface, there can be lots of anxiety and stress. It's important to stay informed. We acknowledge the impact that this outbreak is having on our community, and on those who have friends or relatives who are affected. We are thinking of you.

What you need to know

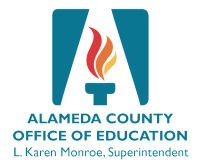
- In the unusual event that a child or staff member is identified who recently traveled from Wuhan, China, and who has any of these respiratory symptoms (fever, cough, or shortness of breath), he or she should be sent home from school/work, and the school should contact the Alameda County Public Health Department at 510-267-3250 for additional guidance.
- At this moment, there are no recommendations to exclude asymptomatic (no symptoms) people who travelled to China from school or work.

We encourage all students, parents, and staff to take common-sense precautions to prevent the spread of all infectious diseases, including common illnesses like colds and flu

- Encourage students and staff to stay home when they are sick.
 - Those who have a fever at school should go home and stay home until at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever without the use of fever-reducing medicine.
 - Separate sick students and staff from others, ideally in a separate place, until they can be picked up to go home.
- Promote hand hygiene among students and staff through education, scheduled time for handwashing, and availability of soap and water or hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your face, particularly your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Teach and encourage proper cough etiquette—cough or sneeze into a tissue, sleeve, or arm (do not use hands).
- Perform routine surface cleaning.
- Be vigilant when attending large gatherings, as this is where respiratory viruses often spread. If you are not feeling well or are experiencing cold, flu, or other symptoms, stay home to avoid spreading germs.



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For more information on the novel Coronavirus, please see the Coronavirus FAQs posted on our Alameda County Public Health Department website www.acphd.org; we will keep the website updated with any local information or resources as we know more. We will monitor the developing situation and inform you of any additional public health recommendations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Erica Pan".

Erica Pan, MD, MPH, FAAP
Interim County Health Officer
Alameda County Public Health Department

L. Karen Monroe

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "L. Karen Monroe".

Superintendent of Schools
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