



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Oakland Unified Community,

District leaders and staff are paying close attention to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and the information coming from our public health partners at the federal, state, and local levels. We want to share some of the latest information from our health services staff and plan for the possible spread of the coronavirus in our community.

On Tuesday, February 25, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) provided an update on the current status of COVID-19, and what steps should be taken moving forward. **Please note that according to the Alameda County Public Health Department (ACPHD), we have no confirmed cases in Alameda County at this time.**

While the health risk to the general public in California remains low, the CDC recently stated that the coronavirus will almost certainly begin spreading in communities in the United States, and we should begin preparations now. We are working with local partners and health officials to establish protocols for schools in the event that COVID-19 does spread in Oakland. More information will be shared as this plan develops. In the meantime, current information about the coronavirus is available on the [CDC](#) and [ACPHD](#) websites as well as our own website at www.ousd.org/coronavirus. Given how quickly the global situation is changing, we will continue to reevaluate our steps and actions daily.

The CDC reports that person-to-person spread of COVID-19 appears to occur mainly by respiratory transmission. Our health and wellness staff advises the following steps to prevent the spread of all respiratory illnesses:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Get vaccinated for the flu every year.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw away the tissue.
- Individuals with chronic health problems and/or individuals experiencing severe symptoms should be evaluated by a medical professional.



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Please know that we are in constant communication with ACPHD and the Alameda County Office of Education, and will update you as we receive more information and when additional plans for our schools come into focus.

When it comes to discussing these serious issues with your children, especially when there is so much media coverage that can be sensationalized, something like the coronavirus can be scary for young people. Knowing the best ways to talk about such sensitive topics with children can help them feel more at ease and make your life easier. For tips on how to handle such conversations, please take a look at [this website](#), which has information you will find helpful.

We know that the collective strength and unity of our students, families and staff will help us get through this period of heightened health concern successfully. On behalf of District leaders and our OUSD Health Services Team, I thank you for your partnership.

Respectfully,

Kyla Johnson-Trammell
Superintendent