



Montebello Unified School District

STUDENT SERVICES

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March 12, 2020

Re: Coronavirus (COVID-19) update

Dear Montebello Unified School District (MUSD) Parents/Guardians,

The situation regarding the Coronavirus (COVID-19) is rapidly changing. As this situation evolves, public health officials continue to confirm more cases of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the State of California.

At this time, MUSD has no school closures. If a situation should arise we will work with local, state, and federal health agencies to assess and determine, on a case by case basis, if a school needs to dismiss or close. If there is a confirmed case of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in an individual who has been at school, it is not an automatic reason for school dismissal or closure. The Department of Public Health (DPH) will make the determination.

Concerns have been brought to our attention about keeping student(s) home based on the fear of contracting the Coronavirus (COVID-19) at school. We would like to point out that per California Education Code, schools are unable to mark an absence as excused for this reason. The standard absence protocol remains in place at this time. If a student is out for an extended period of time, a doctor's note may be required. Any absence due to an agency-requested quarantine, self-isolation, or illness will be excused. We will collaborate with our students and families as unique situations arise.

We encourage everyone to continue to take all possible precautions to help reduce the risk of spreading germs to others. These include the following recommendations from DPH:

- *#1 prevention method is frequent handwashing with soap and water for 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. Use of soap and water is best.*
- *Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands. If you do not have a tissue, use your sleeve (not your hands).*
- *Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.*
- *Limit close contact, sharing cups or utensils.*

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- *Get the flu vaccine if you have not done so this season. It's not too late to get the flu vaccine. Being protected against the flu will decrease the number of people using healthcare resources and allow resources to be available for people who may have COVID-19.*

Please know that we will continue to take the necessary steps to support prevention through cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting. Our personnel at all Montebello Unified schools are taking the necessary steps to ensure our students, personnel, and families remain safe and healthy. *This includes disinfecting and sanitizing the following areas daily:*

- ***Classrooms*** - door knobs, handles, drinking fountains, and sink areas.
- ***Restrooms*** - toilets, sinks, urinals, partition door handles, and all dispensers.
- ***Cafe/ Lounges*** - all areas where students and personnel eat, tables, counters, chairs, sinks, and dispensers.
- ***Office/ Nurse station*** - beds, tables, chairs, restrooms, waiting area in office, and counter tops.
- ***Library***- all desk tops, chairs, and counter tops.
- ***Gym/ Locker room*** - all locker handles, showers, toilets, sinks, urinals, and benches.
- ***Transportation*** - all buses.

Additionally, we will implement a no visitor no volunteer policy at our schools. MUSD is canceling all non-essential travel for our students and personnel. This includes fieldtrips, all non essential events for students, families, and personnel.

Also, for our students who are medically fragile, two things to consider are:

- We recommend parents check with their students healthcare provider on precautions related to school attendance and at what point it may be advised that their student not attend school if it would put him/her at greater risk.
- If someone from a district or school speaks to Public Health regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19) exposure at the school, advise Public Health if you have students at the school who are medically fragile.

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As spring break approaches, we would like to remind everyone to take all necessary precautions to protect yourselves and our community from this and any illness. **Our spring break will be April 10-17.** We are currently expecting further guidance from the Los Angeles County Office of Education and the Department of Public health.

In closing, it is important that we do not act out of fear, but rather focus on treating everyone in our community with kindness and respect. Be aware that there is a lot of misinformation surrounding the Coronavirus (COVID-19). We encourage you to stay informed with accurate information provided through the Department of Public Health's website at <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/> .

We thank you for your support of our school community and helping to empower our students to achieve academic excellence as model citizens each and every single day.

Sincerely,

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