



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY  
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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## SCHOOL ADVISORY

**Date:** February 7, 2020  
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### **Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Guidance for Schools and School Districts**

The County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Department is closely monitoring the rapidly expanding outbreak of respiratory illness caused by a novel coronavirus (named “2019-nCoV”).

The outbreak first started in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China, but cases have been identified in a growing number of other locations. As of today, there have been over 30,000 cases in mainland China and over 250 cases in 27 other countries, with 12 in the U.S., half in California. To date, there are no cases of this novel coronavirus reported in San Luis Obispo County.

We are following federal and state guidance on quarantine and isolation actions. All travelers coming to the U.S. from mainland China are being screened for travel history and symptoms at the 11 airports that are receiving such flights. Travelers from Hubei Province are being quarantined on location. Those from other areas of China are allowed to proceed to their final destination, but are monitored under the supervision of the local health department.

**Returning travelers from China will need to be excluded from school for 14 days after they left China.**

The County Public Health Department has not received notice at this time of any such travelers. Yet it is not unreasonable to expect that we may have such returning travelers and schools should be prepared for such circumstances.

In the unusual event that a school first identifies a child or staff member who has returned from China in the last 14 days, the school should send the student home **AND immediately contact the County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Department. We can be reached during business hours at 805-781-5500 and after hours at 805-781-4553.**

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**Public Health Department**

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In the meantime, schools can take common-sense precautions to prevent the spread of all infectious diseases. These precautions will be also helpful to prevent the spread of other common illness such as influenza and gastroenteritis.

**Encourage all students, parents, and staff to take everyday preventive actions:**

- Get a flu shot to protect against flu, which can produce symptoms similar to novel coronavirus.
- Wash 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 eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue or sleeve.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Avoid nonessential travel to China, for the time being.

As this is a new and evolving situation, we advise the public including our school partners to look to the CDC for the most up-to-date information on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus out of Wuhan, China (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>) or SLO Public Health at [www.slocounty.ca.gov/nCoV](http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/nCoV).