



Kerman Unified School District

Robert Frausto, District Superintendent
Mark Ruiz, Assistant Superintendent Personnel
Kraig L. Magnussen, Assistant Superintendent/Chief Business Official
Pamela Millspaugh, Assistant Superintendent Educational Services

Board of Trustees
Daniel Babshoff
Maria S. Cantu
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Kindra Melgoza
Jim Volkoff

March 9, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

On Saturday, March 7 Fresno County's Department of Public Health confirmed its first case of COVID-19, the result of a community member contracting the illness while traveling. We have been in communication with our county health officials and will be receiving daily updates from Fresno County's Department of Public Health as we recognize that it is not a matter of "if" but of "when" we will have other cases identified in our county. We are working arm-in-arm with public health officials to ensure that their best practices for schools are in place in Kerman Unified, and will continue to keep our community updated through our phone and email systems. (In order to receive text messages, this option must be selected in the Kerman Unified Parent Portal.)

Recognizing parental interest in the actions of our schools during this outbreak, we wanted to share the following information with you about steps Kerman Unified has taken, and additional actions following the most recent announcement here in Fresno County.

As we have shared in prior communication, we are daily disinfecting highly used surfaces (like doorknobs and counters), encouraging proper handwashing and covering of coughs, eliminating shared water stations for our athletic practices, and continuing healthy classroom practices to reduce the spread of colds and flu.

An age-appropriate video lesson will be presented to every student at school on proper handwashing and hand hygiene.

Prior to releasing students for lunch, students will be given time for and expected to wash or sanitize their hands. The same procedures are followed upon students' return from recess and lunch. Signage has been placed in highly visible locations around campus reminding of the importance of good hand hygiene and proper hand washing practices.

The latest news about the coronavirus outbreak and actions recommended by the Centers for Disease Control is available online at <https://www.cdc.gov/> and through the Fresno County Public Health Department at <https://www.co.fresno.ca.us/departments/public-health>.

Additionally, we would like to address some commonly asked questions:

Are we cancelling activities?

That is not the recommendation of health officials. Instead, we are monitoring the situation in California and Fresno County in particular and will follow best practices as put forth by Fresno County and California health officials and Centers for Disease Control. When academic, sports or performance teams are traveling to out of town competitions, we are also evaluating the best practice recommendations for the destination county to which our students are traveling. This is also true of staff travel for professional development. We will adjust as needed should the guidance of health officials change as the situation evolves.

Notice of Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities: The Kerman Unified School District prohibits discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying based on actual or perceived ancestry, age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, nationality, race or ethnicity, ethnic group identification, religion, marital or parental status, sex, sexual orientation or association with a person or a group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics. (Designated Compliance Officer: Assistant Superintendent Personnel, Address: 15218 W. Whitesbridge Avenue, Kerman, CA 93630, Phone Number: (559) 843-9000)

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Why aren't you cancelling classes?

Public health officials do not recommend the cancellation of classes as an effective action in this situation. We are following their best practices and working closely with health officials to ensure we respond appropriately based on the facts we have. It's important that we not second guess public health officials, who are the experts.

What is being done on KUSD campuses to prevent the spread of illnesses like the flu and COVID19?

It's important to keep in mind that the best way to prevent the spread of viruses in general, is to follow common-sense health practices. These remain the most effective method to avoid the spread of COVID19 as well. In addition to the following practices, this week we have implemented additional training of students on proper handwashing techniques, posted information throughout campus identifying proper handwashing and cough covering, arranging time before and after lunches and recess for additional handwashing or sanitizing by students. Our school campus classrooms, common spaces and restrooms are cleaned every night.

Additionally, students and staff are asked to stay home if they are sick, cover their mouths if coughing, and avoid sharing drinks or food. Classroom surfaces and door handles are frequently being wiped down and disinfected. In athletics, shared team water bottles have been replaced with disposable cups.

Sincerely,

Robert Frausto, Superintendent
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