

March 9, 2020

Dear Live Oak Families and Friends,

I wanted to get out to you a set of updates and guidelines provided by Sonoma County Office of Education (SCOE) and the Department of Health Services (DHS). This is an evolving situation and the two agencies are collaborating to provide guidance. They intend to send weekly updates that I will pass along to you with any specifics for Live Oak.

Department of Health Services

- Dr. Celeste Philip (Health Officer Sonoma County) informed us of a new COVID-19 case in Sonoma County. This case is the second case related to travel on the Princess Cruise.
- The process in which the DHS can currently confirm COVID-19 cases involves sending lab work to the state lab in Richmond, or the CDC lab in Atlanta. This is delaying the county's ability to confirm results of potential COVID-19 cases. They are awaiting to receive test kits from the CDC. Once they receive the test kits, the process to identify and confirm cases will become faster.
- There is a public concern that individuals who may have COVID-19 are asymptomatic. Dr. Philip stated that these cases are very rare. It is most likely that individuals with COVID-19 will show symptoms.
- The two Sonoma County COVID-19 patients did show symptoms of illness prior to confirmation. These individuals were in contact with family members and community members prior to confirmation. Therefore, Dr. Philip has warned that more cases will be found throughout the county.
- At this time, there is one school age student that may have been exposed to COVID-19. Dr. Philip will be contacting the family of the student and the school that the student attends to provide guidance.
- The number of children affected has been low, although they are carriers of the flu.
- Research, treatment and finding a vaccine might take a year.
- It's important to enforce your illness protocol with staff and students. Go home, be an example. If children have a fever, once the fever has cleared, they should stay home for an additional 24 hours.
- Secondary exposure due to travelling to a country on the list: The 14-day quarantine period is for the traveler. The traveler is advised to limit exposure to other family members. The household is not under quarantine, only the traveler. This situation could change in the future.

School Closures

- The primary reason to close schools is because children have a strong rate of spreading viruses. Right now, the DHS is focused on minimizing the spread of COVID-19. This is an additional reason schools may need to close as it will aid in slowing the transmission rates.
- School closure is a collaborative decision between school leaders, SCOE and DHS and is a way to minimize the spread and slow transmission.
- If a student or staff member has a confirmed case of COVID-19, schools can expect to close for two weeks.
- **Live Oak Faculty agree to the following strategies to help cease the spread and transmission of any virus:**

- Use an alternative form of non-contact greeting in the morning instead of shaking hands with each student.
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- Dedicate multiple times to handwashing and/or hand sanitizing for both students and staff throughout the day.
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- We will provide supervision and instruction on how to wash hands including how long and why.
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- Purchase extra antibacterial soap and/or hand sanitizer to have in the classrooms and bathrooms for student and adult use.
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- Contract extra support from our cleaning services include wiping down surfaces, desks and common areas of frequent touch like doorknobs.
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- We will temporarily suspend vacuuming services in order to put more attention on disinfecting surface areas and high frequent touching areas.

Field Trips & Large Group Gatherings (Promotion, Rose Ceremony)

- Dr. Philip is advising the postponement of out of county field trips and overnight field trips and recommends using caution when planning field trips and graduation (promotion) ceremonies. Currently, we are still in the planning stages of all of our scheduled field trips, Rose Ceremony, and eighth grade promotion. With both the Rose Ceremony and Promotion, we advise you give extra consideration to people with underlying health issues and elderly since they are among the most vulnerable.
- Since the eighth-grade camping expedition is mostly an outdoor experience, we are still moving forward, however, we are taking into consideration the evolving situation. We will contact the families when/if the advice changes.

Thank you to everyone for your support and understanding as we navigate this challenge. There are a variety of sources of information and it feels like it is coming at us from a lot of different directions and at times can be inaccurate and/or conflicting. Our primary source of information and guidance will continue to be SCOE and DHS while parents, as always, need to make final decisions for their individual student needs. Please reach out with any questions or concerns.

Best,

Justin Tomola

Director