



NORTH COW CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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March 13, 2020

TO: NCC Parents

RE: Update of Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Yesterday, school and district administrators from around the county had the opportunity to meet with Dr. Karen Ramstrom, Shasta County's Public Health Officer, and Brandy Isola, the Branch Director for Shasta County Public Health. They provided helpful background on Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) and what is happening within the county to prepare, including what schools can do now. **The best advice at this point is if students are running a fever, and/or experiencing excessive coughing or sneezing, to have them stay home so that they are not spreading any germs with others at school. Also, to wash hands with soap and water frequently.** We ask parents to err on the side of caution and keep their student's home if they have these symptoms and until these symptoms have been clear for 24-48 hours. Students with these symptoms at school will be assessed and sent home.

We discussed the state guidance that came out on March 7th so that school and district leaders would understand at what point schools would be closed. **As of today, based on the governor's recommendation, any school closure will be discussed and agreed upon with Shasta County Public Health.** While in session, we will continue to offer essential programs including after school day care. We will continue to take extra preventative steps through more frequent cleaning in an effort to keep our environments clean and safe.

We also received guidance late yesterday from the California Department of Public Health regarding non-essential gatherings. Types of activities that fall into this category are out-of-county field trips and events that do not allow for the 6' of social distancing. **These non-essential gatherings will either be canceled or postponed until April 10 after which a new determination will be made.** Currently, we have cancelled the 4/5 basketball practices/games, the upcoming 4th grade fieldtrip to Sacramento and the fieldtrip to the Cascade theater. A decision to cancel the upcoming track season and Open House has yet to be made.

As long as the health of our students can be maintained, our goal is to keep school open so that our students are continuing to learn and grow. We also know how critical it is for our working families to have students in school. We truly want to work together to make sure students and school staff are kept healthy and that will take each one of us choosing to stay home if we are not healthy. We appreciate parents help in keeping their students at home if they have the symptoms listed above. Information is changing daily and we will keep our families informed as to any recommendations that are made or changed.

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For more up-to-date information about the novel coronavirus, see: Shasta County Health and Human Services website at <https://www.co.shasta.ca.us/index/hhsa/health-safety/current-health-concerns/coronavirus>.

Additional information is available on the California Department of Public Health website at <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/nCOV2019.aspx> or Centers for Disease Control (CDC) website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.