

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE UPDATE

As news about the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) continues to develop we want to reassure our community that Maricopa Unified School District schools are being proactive in creating a healthy learning environment.

Please know, at this time, the Pinal County Public Health Department believes the risk to the general public is low. MUSD will maintain an open line of communication with county health officials and is prepared to respond should the level of concern change.

On February 26, MUSD shared a letter with parents on preventative measures we can all take to prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses like COVID-19. Although our schools are taking precautionary measures like disinfecting learning, play, and eating areas; and encouraging frequent handwashing and respiratory etiquette, at this time, there is no increased risk associated with attending school or other community events.

WHAT IS KNOWN

- The virus causing coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a new coronavirus that has not been previously identified and causes a respiratory illness ranging from a mild cold-like illness to severe pneumonia.
- Most (81%) of people diagnosed with COVID-19 in China had mild disease.
- Similar to influenza, the people who are most likely to have severe disease and complications from COVID-19 are older individuals (>60 years old) and those with other medical conditions like heart and lung disease or diabetes.
- There is no vaccine or treatment currently available for COVID-19.
- Currently, there is NO confirmed community spread of COVID-19 in the US, but experts predict there will eventually be community spread.

HOW THE VIRUS SPREADS

- COVID-19 is believed to spread primarily the same way the common cold or flu spreads – through respiratory droplets that are produced when someone coughs or sneezes.
- People who are most at risk of becoming infected with COVID-19 are those who have been in close contact (within about 6 feet) with someone who has the disease.
- People are thought to be most contagious when they are most symptomatic (the sickest).
- Some spread of the virus might be possible before a person has symptoms; there have been reports of COVID-19, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads.

The CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19. You can find additional information on the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](https://www.cdc.gov) website at www.cdc.gov.

Should you have any additional questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to your school health assistant or school office for more information.