

COVID-19 Coronavirus—Frequently Asked Questions

WHAT IS HVUESD DOING TO KEEP STUDENTS AND STAFF SAFE AT SCHOOL?

- **Reminding students and encouraging frequent hand washing** with soap and warm water, as this is the number one way to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the flu and many other viruses. Posters about hand washing and good hygiene habits have been added to all schools. We are also reminding students not to share food or drink.
- **Adding additional hand sanitizing stations at all schools.** Currently, there is at least one sanitizer dispenser in or outside each cafeteria. We are placing an additional dispenser in high traffic areas in each building.
- **Refocusing and increasing cleaning duties in all our schools.** Currently, all touch points (light switches, doorknobs, water fountains, etc.) are cleaned daily with an antimicrobial disinfectant on the EPA list of COVID-19 fighting products (VIRAL II/256.) Due to increased concerns as the virus spreads in the U.S., we upgraded the disinfecting of all hard surfaces such as desks and tables to a daily schedule with the same product in order to ensure that they are ready for student and staff use in the mornings. Plans for additional focused deep cleaning of high traffic areas and buildings are in place and deployed as necessary.
- **Suspending any student and staff awards, incentives or penalties for “perfect attendance.”** Please do not send sick children to school. Students will not lose credit in classes they miss while ill.
- **Discouraging unnecessary physical contact, including shaking hands and hugging.** This virus spreads through person-to-person contact and although it may seem trivial, this will minimize the risk of transmission. Please do not be offended if your child’s teacher does not shake hands at parent teacher conferences and do not feel obligated to offer a hand.
- **Closely watching attendance and daily illness reports within our schools.**

HOW ARE OUR SCHOOLS BEING CLEANED?

- The Happy Valley Union Elementary School District uses best practices for cleaning and disinfecting schools with an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registered disinfectant as well as Clorox wipes.
- Currently, all touch points (light switches, doorknobs, handles, water fountains, bathrooms, etc.) as well as all hard surfaces (desks, tables, counter tops, etc.) are cleaned daily and disinfected daily. Plans for additional focused deep cleaning of high traffic areas and buildings are in place and deployed as necessary. Custodial staff are trained to use disinfectants in a safe and effective manner.
- When initial cases of the virus came to light, our supervisors revisited appropriate procedures for properly disinfecting all buildings including CDC documentation.

Our team is regularly re-assessing those procedures to determine if additional measures are necessary. We have ordered extra hand sanitizer, cleaning products and CDC-approved wipes and will be disseminating them to the buildings for staff use.

- Our Food Services Department always follows federal guidelines for proper food handling and personal hygiene practices that can help prevent food employees from spreading viruses and bacteria to food. These practices include: excluding ill food employees from working with food; using proper hand washing procedures; and eliminating bare hand contact with foods. Additionally, our kitchen area is sanitized daily.

WHAT SHOULD PARENTS BE DOING TO HELP KEEP SCHOOLS SAFE?

- **Keep your children home when they are sick.** The main symptoms of COVID-19 are fever, coughing and shortness of breath. But students should not come to school if they have any contagious illness. If your child has any of the following symptoms, they should be kept home: fever (without medication), vomiting, diarrhea, undiagnosed rash, green or yellow discharge from nose, an inflamed throat, persistent cough, redness or discharge from the eyes, or an elevated temperature. Preventing the spread of any illness is everyone's responsibility, and keeping sick children home will help preserve the safety of all kids and stop transmission within schools.
- **Have a plan in place to pick your children** up quickly should they become ill at school.
- **Encourage and help your children wash their hands** often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water is not available, use hand sanitizer. Remind them to avoid touching their eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands and to cover their mouth and nose with a tissue or upper sleeve when coughing or sneezing.
- **Avoid contact with people who are sick** and do not bring your children to visit with people who are ill.
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.**
- **Cover cough with a tissue or sleeve.**
- **Provide adequate supplies within easy reach, including tissues and hand sanitizer.**
- **Disinfect common area surfaces and objects, especially phones and items that may touch your face.**

WHAT IF WE TRAVEL OUTSIDE THE U.S. WITH OUR CHILDREN OR HAVE A CRUISE PLANNED?

- For personal travel (like upcoming Spring Break trips), we strongly advise all students, faculty, and staff follow travel alerts from the **CDC** and **DOS**. Currently, the CDC recommends that travelers avoid all nonessential travel to Italy, South

Korea, Iran, China, and Venezuela. The CDC has also issued an **advisory for cruise ship travel**. If you or someone in your family has traveled to one of these countries or is planning a cruise, **you MUST adhere to CDC guidelines upon return**: This includes self-quarantines & re-entry processes for resuming attendance at our schools: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/faqs.html>

- **If your students travel to a level 3 CDC COVID-19 warning area, please notify their schools before returning.** (Right now, this includes China, Iran, South Korea, Italy and Venezuela but could change at any time): <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/after-travel-precautions.html>
- **If you travel anywhere outside or inside the U.S. and become ill,** contact your doctor and your child's school immediately. Your doctor will work with the Shasta County Public Health and Human Services Agency to determine proper diagnose and protocol.

DO MY CHILDREN NEED TO STAY HOME IF A PARENT OR RELATIVE TRAVELS BUT THEY DO NOT?

- If students themselves do not travel but parents or other relatives do, students can attend school as usual unless someone in the home has symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough, shortness of breath.)
- If a parent or relative is sick, students should self-quarantine until a doctor determines it is safe for the student to return to school.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF SOMEONE IN MY FAMILY BECOMES SICK WITH RESPIRATORY SYMPTOMS?

You should contact your primary care doctor immediately. Your doctor will work with the Health Division to determine whether you or a family member should be tested. Please notify your child's school if any member of your family has symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, coughing, shortness of breath, etc.)

ARE CHILDREN AT GREAT RISK FROM COVID-19

No, the CDC and the World Health Organization say the data shows that children are actually the group with the lowest risk. Most children who have been infected with the virus worldwide have had mild cases and recovered quickly. But they suspect that children can carry the virus with mild symptoms and spread it to others, so we want to take every precaution, especially for our students and staff with underlying medical conditions.

WILL HAPPY VALLEY SCHOOLS CLOSE TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19?

- **At this time, we are not being advised to close schools or modify our instructional practices.** Any decision to implement a school closure in

anticipation of — or in response to — community spread of COVID-19 would be made under the direction of public health agencies and/or the California Department of Health & Human Services. We have not received that direction at this time.

- If the Shasta County Public Health and Human Services Agency advises that the Happy Valley Union Elementary School District should close one or more buildings, we will notify families using our usual channels for emergency announcements, including: School Messenger emails, automated phone calls, REMIND, social media, and local television media. Please make sure that your child's school has your updated contact information and that you are following the district's social media so that you are receiving all school communications. All communications will also be posted on the district website at www.hvUSD.net
- If Governor Newsom announces a state wide closure of K-12 schools, the District will follow those directions.