

Dear CSCE Families,

I am writing to share with you the latest information Community School for Creative Education has about COVID-19 (coronavirus).

Student health and safety is a priority, so we are continually seeking updates and guidance from Alameda County Department of Public Health and the Alameda County Office of Education (ACOE). The county health officials have expertise in this field and are keeping us up to date on the situation here in California and best practices in response to it.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that person-to-person spread of COVID-19 appears to occur mainly by respiratory transmission, similar to the way the flu and common cold are spread. The California Department of Public Health advises the following steps to prevent the spread of all respiratory viruses:

What we all can do - based on guidelines CDC provides:

- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay away from work, school, or other people if you become sick with respiratory symptoms including fever and cough.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or your arm when coughing or sneezing.

What Families can do - based on guidelines CDC provides to families for determining when your child should stay home from school:

- If having your child at school would significantly put others at risk for contracting your child's illness;
- If your child has vomited or had diarrhea in the last 24 hours;
- If your child has had a fever in the last 24 hours (oral temperature over 100.4 degrees F).
- CSCE would also greatly appreciate any donations of anti-bacterial wipes for your child's classroom.

What the School is doing: CSCE is putting procedures in place based on the recommendations from CDC and the Alameda County Health Department. This will include:

- Staff reminding students frequently to wash their hands;
- Staff reminding students to cough/sneeze into a tissue or their arm;
- Janitorial service ensuring that bathrooms are fully stocked with antibacterial soap;
- Janitorial service disinfecting frequently touched surfaces (eg. door knobs) with greater frequency.
- CSCE contracts with a janitorial service for daily cleaning and restocking of supplies during the school day and thorough cleaning/disinfecting (including use of germicidal bleach) every evening.

Our school routinely sends students home when they exhibit signs of fever or labored breathing. We will continue this practice, and strongly urge families whose children are exhibiting these symptoms to confer with health care providers for precautionary reasons. If your child is expressing fears or talking about COVID-19 a lot, below are some resources that might be helpful. We recommend watching/reading them yourself first before sharing them with your children, so that you can plan how best to use them.

- an NPR segment about coronavirus that was geared towards children
- a Brainpop video explaining what coronavirus is
- an article about how to talk to kids about coronavirus
- Time for Kids articles 3rd-4th 5th - 8th

Sincerely,
Monique F. Brinson, MS
Principal