

March 13, 2020

Parents,

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 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. Any school closures will be discussed and agreed upon with Shasta County Public Health and the local school district. While in session, schools will continue to offer after school, day care, and preschool programs. 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 we agreed with Shasta County Public Health that fall into this category are field trips, sporting events (especially those that are indoor and not allowing for 6' of social distancing), and school club competitions. These non-essential gatherings will either be postponed until after April 10 or canceled.

The Shasta County Office of Education is working closely with Public Health to keep all school leaders informed. We are receiving regular updates as new information becomes available.

Our goal is to keep schools 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.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Take care,