



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Michael Hill *Health Agency Director*

Penny Borenstein, MD, MPH *Health Officer/Public Health Director*

SCHOOL ADVISORY

Date: March 2, 2020
Contact: Christine Gaiger, SPHN
805-781-5500, cgaiger@@co.slo.ca.us

Updated Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Guidance for Schools

This is an update to the School Advisory issued February 7, 2020.

The County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Department is closely monitoring the rapidly expanding outbreak of respiratory illness caused by a novel coronavirus, more recently named COVID-19. There is widespread or sustained community transmission currently occurring in five countries. Our February 7, 2020 school advisory identified returning travelers from China only. This updated advisory reflects the current conditions and risk.

Returning travelers will need to be excluded from school for 14 days after they left the following affected countries:

- **China**
- **South Korea**
- **Japan**
- **Italy**
- **Iran**

It is not unreasonable to expect that we may have such returning travelers and schools should be prepared for such circumstances.

In the unusual event that a school first identifies a child or staff member who has returned from one of the affected countries in the last 14 days, the school should send the student home **AND immediately contact the County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Department. We can be reached during business hours at 805-781-5500 and after hours at 805-781-4553.**

In the meantime, please encourage all students, parents, and staff to take these everyday preventive actions:

- Get a flu shot to protect against flu, which can produce symptoms similar to novel coronavirus.

Public Health Department

2191 Johnson Avenue | San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 | (P) 805-781-5500 | (F) 805-781-5543

www.slopublichealth.org

- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue or sleeve.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Avoid nonessential travel to affected countries, for the time being.

As this is a new and evolving situation, we advise the public including our school partners to look to the CDC for the most up-to-date information on the [2019 novel coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html) (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>) and SLO Public Health for local information at www.slocounty.ca.gov/COVID19.