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Dear CUSD Families and Staff:

I want to continue to direct you to our [website](#) for all information about Coronavirus or COVID-19 as it is now more commonly called, but here are some important reminders and updates.

According to the California Department of Public Health, the risk of contracting Novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) remains low **and as of March 9, no confirmed cases have been identified in Monterey County.**

Those who do contract COVID-19 commonly get a mild to moderate upper respiratory tract infection similar to a common cold. Symptoms include a runny nose, cough, sore throat, headache and fever that can last for a couple of days. Most of the time symptoms go away on their own. For those with weakened immune systems, the elderly, or the very young, there is an increased risk for a more serious lower respiratory infection such as pneumonia or bronchitis and, in rare cases, the disease can be fatal. What we can *all* do is follow good health practices to limit the spread of the virus to this small percentage of the population who are less able to easily overcome it.

Most of us have not experienced a public health crisis like this, but I am confident that we are well positioned in this district to respond appropriately. My confidence comes not from social media, nor the onslaught of the news media, but from reviewing the facts, listening to medical experts, and working with our partners and district team members.

Finally, at this time, we have no immediate plans to close our schools, or cancel school events; however, we are planning and organizing for that possibility should it be necessary. I have an excellent team of teachers and administrators who have been working with me on those details. I am in communication with state, county, and local agencies who are well organized to help us and to make these decisions when necessary. We will notify you of all such decisions in as timely a manner as possible.

Thank you for your patience and feedback and keep reviewing our website for future developments.

Barb Dill-Varga,  
Superintendent