February 28, 2020

Dear OVSD Parents,

The health and welfare of our students and staff is always our highest priority. OVSD is closely monitoring the coronavirus (COVID-19) situation, while working with expert partner agencies to ensure we receive medically accurate and timely information.

As you may be aware, earlier this week, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) made statements during a briefing that signaled a change in tone from previous communications by asking individuals, communities, governments, businesses and schools to be prepared should the United States experience an increase in COVID-19 cases. In response, the County of Orange declared a COVID-19 emergency Wednesday afternoon. County officials stated that although there are currently no cases of coronavirus in Orange County, their goal is to ensure resources are available and that all residents and visitors to Orange County are prepared.

While these new developments may cause concern for some in our community, the following guidelines for schools from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) have not changed.

- Travelers from mainland China arriving in the United States since February 3, 2020 should be excluded from school for 14 days, beginning the day after they left China.

The CDPH also encourages students, parents and staff to continue taking everyday preventive actions to prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses, including:

- Staying home when sick
- Washing hands frequently
- Covering coughs with a sleeve or tissue
- Having ample tissues within easy reach, as well as no-touch trash cans
- Routinely cleaning frequently touched surfaces
- Separating sick students and staff from others until they can go home

To support public health, OVSD follows the guidance of expert agencies (including the CDC, CDPH, OC Health Care Agency, and OC Department of Education) and we ask our community to do so as well. This community effort will help ensure the health and safety of those who attend, work and visit our campuses.

Finally, it should be noted that OVSD supported the City of Costa Mesa in objecting to plans for using the Fairview Developmental Center as a quarantine site for people who test positive for coronavirus. The City of Costa Mesa objected to the placement of coronavirus patients at the Fairview Developmental Center
because it is in a densely populated area and because no plans or protocols had been shared with the City. OVSD filed an amicus curiae brief in support of the City of Costa Mesa and a judge ruled that a temporary restraining order preventing the use of the facility will remain in place until a new hearing on March 2.

OVSD will continue to closely monitor the coronavirus situation, work with the appropriate agencies and provide updates as needed.

Sincerely,

Dr. Carol Hansen
Superintendent

For more information regarding the coronavirus and guidelines for schools, please visit our website at www.ovsd.org

Additional information regarding coronavirus may also be found on the following websites:


California Department of Public Health: https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/nCOV2019.aspx

Orange County Department of Education: https://newsroom.ocde.us/coronavirus-update/