January 31, 2020
Re: Coronavirus

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Tucson Unified School District is aware that there has been a confirmed case of 2019 Novel Coronavirus in Maricopa County. While the immediate risk of the Coronavirus to the general public is believed to be low at this time, TUSD is monitoring the situation closely. We are collaborating with the Pima County Health Department as needed, to ensure the health and safety of our students is maintained to the greatest extent possible. We have received a few parent questions/concerns regarding the Coronavirus, and wanted to share the following general information with you:

- **Coronaviruses** are a large family of viruses, some causing respiratory illness in people. Signs and symptoms, similar to the common cold or the flu, include a fever, cough, difficulty breathing, sore throat, runny nose, and general feeling of being unwell. For more information about coronaviruses, please see the CDC coronavirus website [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/index.html)
- Those considered at risk for contracting the virus are individuals with recent travel to Wuhan, China, or individuals in close contact with a person infected with the 2019 Novel Coronavirus.
- **Public health officials are advising residents that flu and other respiratory diseases are circulating in the community, and are recommending everyone get a flu shot and follow basic prevention guidelines.**
- **The best ways to prevent the spread of all respiratory viruses are to:**
  - Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
  - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
  - Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
  - Stay home when you are sick.
    - Students with a fever of 100.0°F or higher should be kept home from school until they are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications.
    - Students with significant respiratory symptoms, which may include a cough, sore throat, runny nose, and general feeling of being unwell, should be kept home from school until symptoms improve. More serious symptoms, including difficulty breathing, should be evaluated by a health care provider.
    - As always, notify your school attendance clerk of your student’s absence and let him/her know your student’s symptoms. If you take your student to the...
physician, notify the school health office if your child was diagnosed with any contagious illness.
  - Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing. Throw out any used tissues in the trash and then wash your hands.
  - Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

According to the Pima County Health Department, what is known about the 2019 Novel Coronavirus suggests a low immediate health risk for the general public. However, our county is seeing a significant increase in cases of influenza. All who have not yet received a flu vaccine this year are encouraged to do so.

If you have any questions, please contact your healthcare provider or refer to the government links below.

Sincerely,
Nikki Stefan, RN
Director, School Health Services


https://webcms.pima.gov/cms/One.aspx?portalId=169&pageId=527452