



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY  
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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## SCHOOL ADVISORY

**Date:** March 12, 2020  
**Contact:** Rick Rosen, MD, MPH  
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### **Updated Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Guidance for Schools**

*This is an update to the School Advisory issued February 28, 2020.*

The World Health Organization declared the current COVID-19 outbreak a global pandemic on March 11, 2020. As of the morning of March 12, there are now over 127,000 confirmed cases affecting 116 countries. Within the United States, 38 states and the District of Columbia have reported confirmed cases. The County of San Luis Obispo, however, has not yet had a confirmed case.

Given the widespread nature of the current COVID-19 pandemic, the County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Department has changed its guidance regarding exclusion from school and self-quarantine.

**There is no longer a requirement to exclude international travelers from school unless you are specifically directed to do so by the Public Health Department.**

Likewise, schools need not exclude travelers from locations with community transmission of COVID-19 within California or the United States.

**Students and staff with a history of household contact or other close contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19 must be excluded from school for 14 days from the time of their most recent exposure.**

Furthermore, individuals with a history of close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 are directed to self-quarantine for 14 days from the time of last exposure under supervision of the Public Health Department. If you become aware of such an individual, please contact the Public Health Department immediately at **805-781-5500 and after hours at 805-781-4553.**

**Students and staff who become ill with fever and/or respiratory illness are asked to stay home and not come to school.**

Sick individuals should not return to school until they have been free of fever for at least 24 hours in the absence of fever-lowering medications, and no longer have respiratory symptoms.

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#### **Public Health Department**

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[www.slopublichealth.org](http://www.slopublichealth.org)

In the meantime, please continue to 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 COVID-19.
- 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 areas.

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 for local information at [www.ReadySLO.org](http://www.ReadySLO.org).