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Dear Colleagues,

We are writing to you because we value the health and well-being of our students, staff and families. In light of recent updates on Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), the Governor has declared a state of emergency. This declaration does not have any immediate or direct impact on Riverside Unified schools.

We want you to know that our district is working with local, state and national health agencies on prevention and district management to protect our schools, staff and students. Our district follows local, state, and national health care expert guidance and recommendations. We are sharing this information for the sake of transparency, so you are aware and can help reduce the spread of infection. The best ways to reduce the risk of spreading this or **any** viral respiratory infection is to follow the CDC recommended guidelines:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer if available
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands
- Clean and disinfect objects and frequently touched surfaces
- Students and employees should stay home if they are sick (elevated temperature, fever, cough, shortness of breath)
- Cover mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) provides more in-depth information about the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) which can be accessed via the links below:

- https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html
- https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/fag.html
- https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/share-facts-h.pdf

The district takes this health risk very seriously. If cases of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) are confirmed in our community or in connection to our schools, we will immediately notify staff and families and take steps in conjunction with our local health department to ensure that our facilities are safe.

At this time, there are no recommendations from Riverside County public health officials for cancellation of public events, sports activities, or field trips. With this guidance, all RUSD schools, offices and related activities will remain as scheduled; however, we continue to monitor any locations that may pose a health risk to our students and staff.

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Another important step that we are taking as a district is to ensure that our cleaning protocols at all facilities mirror the California Department of Public Health recommendations for preventive actions to help prevent the spread of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Custodial services have been modified to make cleaning touch points a high priority:

- o Door handles, crash bars, doorknobs
- o Office counters and surfaces
- o Handrails
- o Sinks and drinking fountains
- o Dispensers
- o Anything else that is handled frequently by multiple people

We will keep you updated with any changes. Thank you for helping us keep our schools and facilities safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Timothy R. Walker, Assistant Superintendent

Pupil Services / SELPA