



San Marcos Consolidated Independent School District

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San Marcos CISD Families,

In an effort to be proactive and communicate transparently, San Marcos CISD is reaching out to you regarding the coronavirus—or COVID-19—outbreak. We have been closely following the media reports and information shared by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) about the Coronavirus (COVID-19). While no cases have been suspected among our local community, please be assured that we are monitoring the situation and will stay up to date with information that becomes available from the public health authorities. Public health officials believe the risk to our school community is low at this time.

Any decisions that may need to be made regarding a change to school operations will be done so with guidance from the CDC and local health officials, along with guidance and direction from the authorities at TEA and Region 13. Much is being learned about this newly emerged virus. Based on the current information, health officials are recommending local communities and schools should take the same steps to protect against coronavirus as we take to prevent the spread of everyday illnesses like the common cold or the flu:

- Wash your 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 your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose with the inside of your elbow when you cough or sneeze.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

While a new type of illness can be scary, we can protect our students, teachers, and the broader community by using simple everyday actions that protect people from other types of respiratory viruses. Our teachers, school nurses, and staff are working carefully to encourage these simple and effective habits of frequent handwashing, covering every cough or sneeze, and cleaning classroom tables/surfaces frequently. This is important not just to help prevent the spread of coronavirus, but to help prevent the spread of other infections that can lead to student illness and absences.

For updated information from the CDC on coronavirus can be found at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>. The most recent information about coronavirus in Texas may be found at: <https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/>

Also, as we prepare for some much deserved rest and relaxation for Spring Break, please pay particular attention to the established travel advisories. As always, we thank you for the trust and confidence you place in us every single day to keep your children safe. I know working together we will continue to provide a safe, secure and healthy learning environment for all students in San Marcos CISD.

Sincerely,

Michael Cardona
Superintendent of Schools

What you need to know about 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

What is 2019 novel coronavirus?

The 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) is a new virus that causes respiratory illness in people and can spread from person to person. This virus was first identified during an investigation into an outbreak in Wuhan, China.

Can people in the U.S. get 2019-nCoV?

The 2019-nCoV is spreading from person to person in China and limited spread among close contacts has been detected in some countries outside China, including the United States. At this time, however, this virus is NOT currently spreading in communities in the United States. Right now, the greatest risk of infection is for people in China or people who have traveled to China. Risk of infection is dependent on exposure. Close contacts of people who are infected are at greater risk of exposure, for example health care workers and close contacts of people who are infected with 2019-nCoV. CDC continues to closely monitor the situation.

Have there been cases of 2019-nCoV in the U.S.?

Yes. The first infection with 2019-nCoV in the United States was reported on January 21, 2020. The current count of cases of infection with 2019-nCoV in the United States is available on CDC's webpage at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html>.

How does 2019-nCoV spread?

This virus probably originally emerged from an animal source but now seems to be spreading from person to person. It's important to note that person-to-person spread can happen on a continuum. Some viruses are highly contagious (like measles), while other viruses are less so. At this time, it's unclear how easily or sustainably this virus is spreading between people. Learn what is known about the spread of newly emerged coronaviruses at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/transmission.html>.

What are the symptoms of 2019-nCoV?

Patients with 2019-nCoV have reportedly had mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of

- fever
- cough
- shortness of breath



What are severe complications from this virus?

Many patients have pneumonia in both lungs.

How can I help protect myself?

The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to this virus.

There are simple everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses. These include

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.

If you are sick, to keep from spreading respiratory illness to others, you should

- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

What should I do if I recently traveled to China and got sick?

If you were in China within the past 14 days and feel sick with fever, cough, or difficulty breathing, you should seek medical care. Call the office of your health care provider before you go and tell them about your travel and your symptoms. They will give you instructions on how to get care without exposing other people to your illness. While sick, avoid contact with people, don't go out and delay any travel to reduce the possibility of spreading illness to others.

Is there a vaccine?

There is currently no vaccine to protect against 2019-nCoV. The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to this virus.

Is there a treatment?

There is no specific antiviral treatment for 2019-nCoV. People with 2019-nCoV can seek medical care to help relieve symptoms.

¿Qué es la enfermedad del coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19)?

La enfermedad del coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) es una afección respiratoria que se puede propagar de persona a persona. El virus que causa el COVID-19 es un nuevo coronavirus que se identificó por primera vez durante la investigación de un brote en Wuhan, China.

¿Pueden las personas en los EE. UU. contraer el COVID-19?

El COVID-19 se está propagando de persona a persona en China y se ha detectado propagación limitada entre contactos cercanos en algunos países fuera de China, incluso en los Estados Unidos. En la actualidad, sin embargo, este virus NO se está propagando en comunidades en los Estados Unidos. En estos momentos, el mayor riesgo de infección es para las personas en China o las personas que han viajado a China. El riesgo de infección depende de la exposición. Los contactos cercanos de las personas infectadas tienen un riesgo mayor de exposición, por ejemplo, los trabajadores del sector de la salud y los contactos cercanos de las personas infectadas por el virus que causa el COVID-19. Los CDC continúan vigilando de cerca la situación.

¿Ha habido casos de COVID-19 en los EE. UU.?

Sí. El primer caso de COVID-19 en los Estados Unidos se notificó el 21 de enero del 2020. La cantidad actual de casos de COVID-19 en los Estados Unidos está disponible en la página web de los CDC en <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html>.

¿Cómo se propaga el COVID-19?

Es probable que el virus que causa el COVID-19 haya surgido de una fuente animal, pero parece que ahora se está propagando de persona a persona. Es importante notar que la propagación de persona a persona puede darse en un proceso continuo. Algunas enfermedades son altamente contagiosas (como el sarampión), mientras que otras enfermedades no lo son tanto. En estos momentos, no está claro qué tan fácil o con qué continuidad el virus que causa el COVID-19 se esté propagando entre las personas. Infórmese sobre lo que se sabe acerca de la propagación del coronavirus de reciente aparición en <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/transmission-sp.html>.

¿Cuáles son los síntomas del COVID-19?

Los pacientes con COVID-19 han tenido enfermedad respiratoria de leve a grave con los siguientes síntomas:

- fiebre
- tos
- dificultad para respirar



¿Cuáles son las complicaciones graves provocadas por este virus?

Muchos pacientes tienen neumonía en ambos pulmones.

¿Qué puedo hacer para ayudar a protegerme?

La mejor manera de prevenir la infección es evitar la exposición al virus que causa el COVID-19.

Hay medidas simples preventivas y cotidianas para ayudar a prevenir la propagación de virus respiratorios. Estas incluyen las siguientes:

- Evitar el contacto cercano con personas enfermas.
- Evitar tocarse los ojos, la nariz y la boca con las manos sin lavar.
- Lavarse frecuentemente las manos con agua y jabón por al menos 20 segundos. Usar un desinfectante de manos que contenga al menos un 60 % de alcohol si no hay agua y jabón disponibles.
- Si está enfermo, para prevenir la propagación de la enfermedad respiratoria a los demás, debería hacer lo siguiente:
 - Quedarse en casa si está enfermo.
 - Cubrirse la nariz y la boca con un pañuelo desechable al toser o estornudar y luego botarlo a la basura.
 - Limpiar y desinfectar los objetos y las superficies que se tocan frecuentemente.

¿Qué debo hacer si recientemente viajé a China y me enfermé?

Si estuvo en China en los últimos 14 días, se siente enfermo y tiene fiebre, tos o dificultad para respirar, debería buscar atención médica. Llame al consultorio de su proveedor de atención médica antes de ir y dígame sobre su viaje y sus síntomas. Ellos le darán instrucciones sobre cómo conseguir atención médica sin exponer a los demás a su enfermedad. Mientras esté enfermo, evite el contacto con otras personas, no salga y postergue cualquier viaje para reducir la posibilidad de propagar la enfermedad a los demás.

¿Hay alguna vacuna?

En la actualidad no existe una vacuna que proteja contra el COVID-19. La mejor manera de prevenir la infección es evitar la exposición al virus que causa el COVID-19.

¿Existe un tratamiento?

No hay un tratamiento antiviral específico para el COVID-19. Las personas con el COVID-19 pueden buscar atención médica para ayudar a aliviar los síntomas.

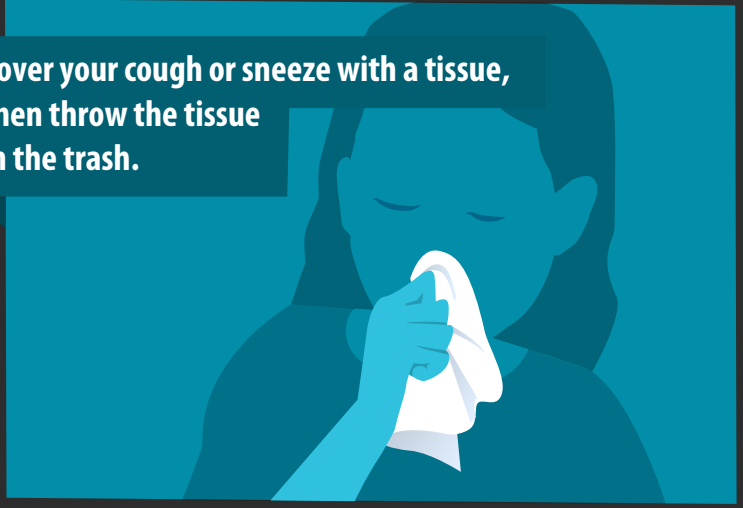
STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.

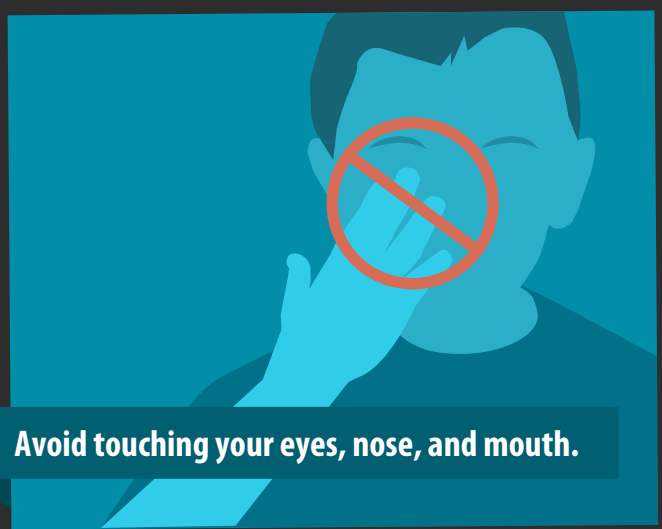
Avoid close contact with people who are sick.



Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.



Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.



Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.



Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.



Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.



For more information: www.cdc.gov/COVID19

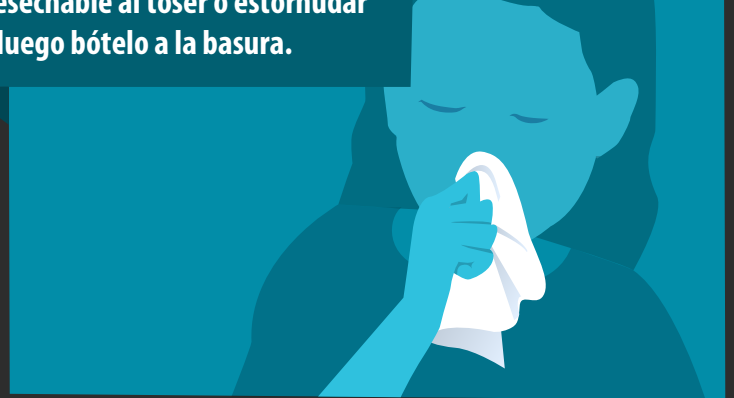
DETENGA LA PROPAGACIÓN DE LOS MICROBIOS

Ayude a prevenir la propagación de virus respiratorios como el nuevo COVID-19.

Evite el contacto cercano con las personas enfermas.



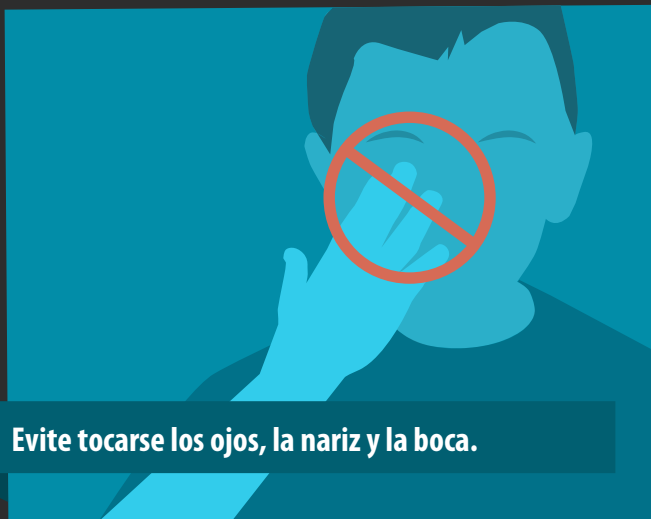
Cúbrase la nariz y la boca con un pañuelo desechable al toser o estornudar y luego bótelo a la basura.



Limpie y desinfecte los objetos y las superficies que se tocan frecuentemente.



Evite tocarse los ojos, la nariz y la boca.



Quédese en casa si está enfermo, excepto para buscar atención médica.



Lávese las manos frecuentemente con agua y jabón por al menos 20 segundos.

