

GERALD HUBER
Director
grhuber@solanocounty.com
(707) 784-8400

DEBBIE VAUGHN
Assistant Director
divaughn@solanocounty.com
(707) 784-8401

BELA T. MATYAS, MD, MPH
Deputy Director/Health Officer
btmatyas@solanocounty.com
(707) 784-8600

275 Beck Avenue, MS 5-240
Fairfield, CA 94533
(707) 784-8600
Fax (707) 784-6618
www.solanocounty.com

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES
Public Health Services Division



**SOLANO
COUNTY**

**SOLANO
PUBLIC
HEALTH**



March 4, 2020

Dear Community Member:

The situation regarding the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) continues to evolve. In the last few days, we have heard from families and staff who are seeking information, and we understand that the community is concerned. Solano Public Health continues to prioritize the health and safety of our community as we work with local, state and federal agencies, as well as health care providers, to track individuals exposed to COVID-19 and isolate as necessary.

At this time, Solano Public Health, in partnership with state and local partners, is not recommending school closures. There is no elevated risk to our students and staff since there is limited spread of COVID-19 in Solano County. When schools are not open, children will congregate elsewhere in the community, which would still allow for spread of the disease. Additionally, some parents find it more difficult than others to take time off work to look after their children. School closures will be considered if a shortage of faculty and staff make supervision of students difficult, or if there is a high number of students who are sick. Solano Public Health will work closely with Solano County Office of Education (SCOE), other city officials, and school districts to provide guidance and recommendations regarding this matter.

While the risk to Solano County residents remains low at this time, we all have a role to play in decreasing the spread of this disease in our community. Practicing these recommendations can protect yourself, your children and families:

- Wash hands with liquid soap and water for at least 20 seconds, alcohol-based sanitizers may also be used;
- Clean and disinfect any surfaces you or other people frequently touch;
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue (or your sleeve) when you cough or sneeze;
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth;
- Stay home if you are sick or feel sick (unless you are seeking medical care);
- Avoid close contact with sick people; and
- Get the flu shot to protect yourselves and others from the seasonal flu.

We strive to care for both the physical and social health needs of our community. Please maintain privacy for those who are reporting an illness. Revealing the identity of those who may have been exposed or affected by COVID-19 can be detrimental to their social wellbeing. We ask our community members to respect the privacy of others.

There have been reports of racial stereotyping in the community. As a reminder, this disease does not discriminate, and children should not be excluded from activities based on their race or country of origin.

If you have any questions, please call the Solano Public Health Coronavirus Warmline at **707-784-8988** or visit solanocounty.com/publichealth for the latest information.

Sincerely,
Dr. Bela Matyas, Solano County Health Officer

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