

# County of Santa Clara

## Public Health Department

Public Health Administration  
976 Lenzen Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
San José, CA 95126  
408.792.5040



Dear Administrators:

January 31, 2020

The County of Santa Clara Public Health Department received confirmation today from the CDC that an adult male resident of the county has tested positive for the novel (new) coronavirus. Although we are announcing a confirmed case today, please know that we do not have any evidence to suggest that that novel coronavirus is circulating in Santa Clara County or the Bay Area.

This person is an adult male who lives in our county. He had traveled to Wuhan, China and became ill upon returning home. Since his return he has been self-isolating at home and did not leave home at all, except to seek medical care. He was seen in a local clinic and hospital but was never sick enough to be hospitalized.

We are conducting our contact investigation and reaching out to anyone he may have been in contact with to determine whether they were exposed to the novel coronavirus. Our preliminary investigation indicates that our case encountered very few individuals after returning home. We are making sure that anyone he did encounter is being monitored for symptoms and staying at home and away from others.

When new viruses surface, there can be lots of anxiety and stress. It's important to stay informed. We acknowledge the impact that this outbreak, and particularly with the unknowns, is having on our community, and on those who have friends or relatives who are affected.

**Please do not require** a physician's clearance to return to work or school for students, employees, and other staff who have returned from traveling and are not sick. We are receiving communications that this is happening, which is impacting the medical system and preventing doctors from seeing patients who are ill.

**We encourage all students and staff to take common-sense precautions to prevent the spread of all infectious diseases, including common illnesses like colds and flu:**

- Encourage students and staff to stay home when they are sick.
  - Those who have a fever at school should go home immediately and stay there for at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever without the use of fever-reducing medicine.
  - Separate sick students and staff from others in a separate place, until they can be picked up to go home. If possible, have the sick person put on a face mask.
- Promote hand hygiene through education and availability of hand sanitizers and tissues.
- Avoid touching your face, particularly your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Encourage proper cough etiquette—cough or sneeze into a tissue, sleeve, or arm. Do not use your hands.
- Perform routine surface cleaning.
- Consider not attending or hosting large gatherings. This is where cold, flu and other respiratory viruses are often spread.

Board of Supervisors: Mike Wasserman, Cindy Chavez, Dave Cortese, Susan Ellenberg, S. Joseph Simitian  
County Executive: Jeffrey V. Smith

The Public Health Department has a webpage dedicated to novel coronavirus in Chinese, English, Spanish and Vietnamese at [sccphd.org/coronavirus](http://sccphd.org/coronavirus). We will keep the webpage updated as we know more. We will monitor the developing situation and inform you of any additional public health recommendations.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sara H. Cody". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sara" being the most prominent.

Sara H. Cody, MD, Health Officer and Director  
County of Santa Clara Public Health Department