



January 31, 2020

Dear Parents:

Many of us are following the news of a new virus (novel coronavirus) that has made thousands of people sick in China and around the world, including a few cases in the U.S.

We want to let you know that Independence High is working closely with Contra Costa Health Services (CCHS) and our own health experts to reduce the risk of anyone getting sick from this novel (new) coronavirus in our community.

Right now, there have been three confirmed cases reported in California, including one in Santa Clara County. Even though there was a case in the Bay Area, the risk of becoming ill from this coronavirus in Contra Costa County remains very low.

The only people who are potentially infected with this virus, which causes fever and breathing problems, are people who started getting sick WITHIN 2 weeks of returning from China, or people who have had close contact with this sick person.

CCHS does not recommend exclusion of healthy students, families, teachers, or school staff if they do not have any symptoms, regardless of actual or perceived travel history, race, or heritage.

The best ways to reduce the risk of getting or spreading any respiratory disease, including this virus, are:

- Stay home from school or work if you are sick
- Frequently wash hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, or use hand sanitizer
- Cover with an elbow or tissue when coughing or sneezing
- Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth and limit close contact with people who are sick

CCHS is not currently recommending the use of masks, so we are not providing or requiring them at school. Local information about the virus is available at [cchealth.org/coronavirus](http://cchealth.org/coronavirus).

We will communicate with you as more information becomes available.

Sincerely,

