



## **Responses to Frequently Asked Questions:**

### **COVID-19 Coronavirus**

**Question 1: What is a “coronavirus”?**

Answer 1: A coronavirus causes diseases ranging from the common cold to more serious respiratory illness. The COVID-19 virus is a new strain which has a more severe impact in terms of respiratory illness, with fever, cough and difficulty breathing. There is currently no vaccine for COVID-19, but there is a vaccine for seasonal flu, which is recommended for all people over the age of 6 months. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), most people get infected with a coronavirus at some point in their lives.

**Question 2: Is there a high risk of getting COVID-19 in Los Angeles at this time?**

Answer 2: No. There are currently about 100 reported cases in the United States, but the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health has determined there are no reported cases in in Los Angeles at this time.

**Question 3: Are children at a higher risk of getting sick from COVID-19 compared with adults?**

Answer 3: No. Health officials say very few children thus far have been infected with COVID-19, and those who have tested positive experienced milder symptoms than older patients.

**Question 4: Is it safe to send my child to school?**

Answer 4: Yes. There have not been any cases of the illness found in our schools. Public health authorities say it is safe to maintain regular school and work schedules.

**Question 5: How can I protect myself against COVID-19?**

Answer 5: The CDC recommends taking the same measures you would do to prevent getting or spreading the common flu. These include:

- Regularly wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or, if unavailable, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your sneeze or cough with a tissue, then immediately dispose of the tissue. If tissues are unavailable, cough or sneeze into the inside of your elbow, then wash your hands.
- Stay up-to-date with the flu vaccine and all other vaccinations.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home if you are sick and do not return to work or school until your temperature is below 100 degrees, without the use of fever-reducing medication, for at least 24 hours.

**Question 6: Should students and school staff wear surgical masks to protect themselves?**

Answer 6: The CDC and World Health Organization recommend masks only if you are coughing or sneezing to block the droplets from getting into the air. Masks cannot prevent what's already in the air from getting in and are not recommended for people who are healthy.

**Question 7: Why is handwashing so important?**

Answer 7: Handwashing helps prevent the spread of disease.

**Question 8: How long does the COVID-19 virus remain on a surface?**

Answer 8: Health authorities are still working to determine how long the COVID-19 virus can persist under a variety of circumstances.

**Question 9: What is the school district doing to prevent the spread of Covid-19?**

Answer 9: Schools are cleaned daily by our custodial staff, who use a disinfectant solution to sanitize restrooms, drinking fountains, and lunch and food-preparation areas. They also are ensuring that all restrooms are equipped with hand soap and paper towels.

**Question 10: What happens if a school has to close?**

Answer 10: We are making plans for learning to continue from home, as well as the possibility of extending the school year to make up for disruption in the school calendar. We are working closely with our labor partners to carefully review the potential impact that COVID-19 could have at schools and work sites and on district operations.

**Question 11: Are schools cancelling field trips?**

Answer 11: No. At this time, health authorities say no special precautions are required. Students and staff are encouraged to engage in their regular activities.

**Question 12: Where can I go for more information?**

Answer 12: Los Angeles Unified has a COVID-19 hotline at 213-443-1300, which is open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. Callers can get assistance in both English and Spanish. Information is also available on the Los Angeles Unified website, [lausd.net](https://www.lausd.net); and from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](https://www.cdc.gov), 800-232-4634; and the [Los Angeles County Department of Public Health](https://www.lacounty.gov), 211.