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## Public health and flu update

Danielle Smith • 29 days ago • Thursday, Feb 6 at 1:57 PM • **Gateway Public Schools**

Dear Gateway families,

Gateway's highest priority is the health and safety of our students. We acknowledge that the extensive media coverage of the Coronavirus may be causing anxiety for some families and students. Please rest assured that we are monitoring this situation closely and will continue to work with local health officials, but at this time there is **no reason to be concerned about sending students to school and no public health concern at Gateway.**

We wanted to take the opportunity to remind staff and families of best practices to stop the spread of the flu and other viruses that are common this time of year, including:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available
- Cough into a tissue or your elbow (not your hand). Then throw tissue away and wash hands
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid contact with people who are sick
- **Stay home when you are sick**
- Keep students home if temperature is above 100.0 F (37.8 C) or they report not feeling well or appear weak or ill
- Consult your health care provider if you or your child has special health conditions that put you at increased risk
- If you have not already had a flu vaccination, talk to you and your child's primary care provider about the advisability of getting one.

Thank you for your cooperation in our shared work to keep students healthy and thriving.

[Friday, Feb 28 at 12:04 PM]

Dear Gateway Families,

We wanted to resurface our message from February 6 in light of news you may be hearing that the city has declared a "state of emergency" related to the coronavirus, in case your child has questions. As **Mayor Breed explains in the SF Chronicle**, the declaration is enacted so that the city has the money, resources and personnel to prepare for a quick response if any cases of the virus are confirmed in San Francisco in the future. Please keep in mind that at present no cases have been identified in the city, and all routines at Gateway are proceeding normally.

As always, we ask that our families work with their children to practice good "cold and flu hygiene" during the colder months, and keep sick students resting at home if they come down with anything.

According to the SFPDPH, the immediate health risk for the general public within California and the U.S. remains low. We will keep staff and families informed of any updates that relate to our schools. You may stay up to date by visiting the **SFPDPH website**, **www.sf72.org**, and the **CDC's website**.

Thank you so much for your support.

Sincerely,

Sharon Olken, Executive Director