



## **Responses to Frequently Asked Questions:** **The 2019 Novel Coronavirus (“2019-nCoV”)**

Media reports about the 2019 novel coronavirus have caused anxiety among some families and led to questions about what it means for children. Please be assured: the coronavirus poses **little to no** risk for Los Angeles students at this time. Safety remains a top priority for the District, and we will continue monitoring the situation and taking necessary steps to keep kids healthy.

Below are responses to the questions that have been frequently asked about the coronavirus.

**Question 1: Is there a high risk of getting the coronavirus if I live in Los Angeles?**

Answer 1: No. The L.A. County Department of Public Health has determined that there is **no** immediate public threat in Los Angeles at this time.

**Question 2: Is it safe to send my child to school?**

Answer 2: Yes. Currently, the risk of contracting the coronavirus is **low** throughout L.A. County, and there have **not** been any cases of the illness found in our schools.

**Question 3: What is a “coronavirus”?**

Answer 3: A coronavirus is a family of viruses that cause diseases ranging from the common cold to more serious respiratory illness. Among humans, coronaviruses are most commonly spread from an infected person to others through coughing and sneezing; close personal contact; and touching an object or surface with the virus on it, then touching one’s mouth, nose, or eyes before handwashing. There is no cure for a coronavirus, but many of the symptoms can often be treated.

**Question 4: I’ve heard this virus referred to as a “novel coronavirus.” What does that mean?**

Answer 4: There are different types of coronavirus. A “novel coronavirus” means that this coronavirus hasn’t been seen before. It’s new.

**Question 5: How can I protect myself against the coronavirus?**

Answer 5: Do the same things you would do to prevent getting or spreading the common flu. These include:

- Regularly washing your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoiding unnecessary touching of your eyes, nose, or mouth after washing your hands.
- Covering your sneeze or cough with a tissue or sleeve, not your hand.
- Keeping your child at home if she/he has a fever, until she/he no longer has a fever for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medications).
- Staying home when you are sick, too.

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

Answer 6: No, masks are not recommended. They are not an effective method of general prevention. Handwashing provides better protection from infectious diseases.

**Question 7: What is the school district doing to keep our kids safe?**

Answer 7: Los Angeles Unified is working closely with the L.A. County Department of Public Health and U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention to monitor the situation. Additional staff have been deployed to the District Nursing Services hotline (213-202-7575) to answer questions that come in. And, helpful resources have been posted on the District's webpage ([achieve.lausd.net](http://achieve.lausd.net)), so the community remains informed.

**Question 8: Where can I go for more information?**

Answer 8: You can contact LAUSD's District Nursing Services at (213) 202-7575. You can also visit the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health website at <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/> for the latest updates on the coronavirus.

**Question 9: What can I do to help?**

Answer 9: At this time, the best thing that adults can do is model calm behavior. Each child has her/his own response to these types of news reports, and adults can support by staying informed with the most updated and accurate information and sharing this calmly with youth. For additional information on psychological first aid (*listen, protect, connect, model, and teach*), please visit the Student Health and Human Services website at [achieve.lausd.net/shhs](http://achieve.lausd.net/shhs).

**Question 10: This FAQ has been helpful, but it's a lot of information. What is the key takeaway?**

Answer 10: Stay calm and remember to wash your hands frequently.