



Calaveras Health and Human Services Agency

Kristin Stranger, Director
Dr. Dean Kelaita, Health Officer

509 East St. Charles Street
San Andreas, CA 95249

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Dear Parents and Caregivers of students at Copperopolis Elementary School,

Calaveras Public Health and Copperopolis Elementary School staff have been working to prevent the further spread of novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) into Calaveras County communities. Currently, Copperopolis Elementary School is set to reopen on Monday, March 16, 2020. However, if more cases are identified, further school closure may be recommended. Before Copperopolis Elementary School is reopened, the school will undergo a thorough cleaning. To keep students, teachers, staff and the community safe please read the information below on COVID-19 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and California Public Health Department.

What is novel coronavirus?

Novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is a virus that has only spread in people since December 2019. Health experts are concerned because little is known about this new virus. It has the potential to cause severe illness in some people.

How COVID-19 spreads

Health experts are still learning about how this new coronavirus spreads. The virus is mainly spread person-to-person like other coronaviruses:

- Between people who are in close contact with one another.
- By droplets in the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes.
- These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or inhaled into the lungs.
- Transmission of coronavirus occurs most commonly through respiratory droplets. Transmission of COVID-19 to persons from surfaces contaminated with the virus has not been documented. Current evidence suggests that novel coronavirus may remain viable for hours to days on surfaces made from a variety of materials. Cleaning of visibly dirty surfaces followed by disinfection is a best practice measure for prevention of COVID-19 and other viral respiratory illnesses in households and community settings.

How severe is novel coronavirus?

Experts are still learning about how severe the novel coronavirus is. Reported cases have been mild (similar to a common cold) to severe that requires hospitalization. So far, deaths from COVID-19 have been mainly in older adults who had other health conditions.

Human Services
509 East St. Charles Street
San Andreas, CA 95249
Phone (209) 754-6452
Fax (209) 754-3293

Public Health Division
700 Mountain Ranch Road, Suite C2
891 Mountain Ranch Road (Mail)
San Andreas, CA 95249
Phone (209) 754-6460
Fax (209) 754-1709

Behavioral Health Division
891 Mountain Ranch Road
San Andreas, CA 95249
Phone (209) 754-6525
Fax (209) 754-6597



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What are the symptoms?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention believes that at this time symptoms from COVID-19 may appear in as few as 2 days or as long as 14 days after exposure. Symptoms can include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

How can I prevent from getting novel coronavirus?

Steps taken to prevent the flu and the common cold will also help prevent COVID-19:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water is not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home from work or school and limit contact with others if you are sick with fever and cough.
- Clean surfaces that are touched often, like toys and doorknobs.

How is the novel coronavirus treated?

Currently, there is no vaccine available to prevent COVID-19. There are no medications specifically approved for coronavirus. Most people with mild coronavirus illness will recover on their own. However, some cases develop pneumonia and require medical care or hospitalization.

For more information, on COVID-19 visit <https://publichealth.calaverasgov.us/Novel-Coronavirus>

People who think they may have been exposed to COVID-19 and have symptoms should call their healthcare provider immediately.