March 6, 2020

Dear Families,

The Casa Grande Elementary School District prioritizes the health, safety, and well-being of students and staff. Our District health services team, administrators, teachers, and staff take precautions inside our classrooms and schools every day to encourage and promote healthy habits and a safe learning environment for our students.

In February, I provided guidance to school leaders regarding our strategies at the individual, classroom, school, and district levels. Additionally, I shared protocols for handwashing. This week, we sent age-appropriate information to be shared with teachers and students related to staying healthy and preventing the spread of germs and disease.

Because protection from all respiratory viruses is similar, this is a good time to review precautions we can all use to prevent the spread of respiratory viruses:

- Stay home when you are sick.
- Wash hands with soap and water frequently and for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose. Help young children do the same.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover coughs or sneezes with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash and clean hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer (if soap and water are not readily available).

Today I shared additional information related to rumors about a case of coronavirus connected to Pinal County. Below are the facts as we know them today:

- There is an individual from Pinal County that is currently hospitalized in Maricopa County.
- If there was any indication there was exposure, the Pinal County Health Department would alert the District as well as any individuals that had been in contact with the patient.
- We take direction from the CDC and Pinal County Health Department regarding public health issues.
- Our District has a sanitizing strategy. For touch-point cleaning, our custodians already use a hospital-grade disinfectant.
- We are encouraging frequent hand washing.
- If we get direction from any government health agency, we will send out communication to our families immediately.
Please contact your child’s school if you have any questions about health and safety practices in place. We appreciate your concern and attention to the health and safety of our learning community.

Sincerely,

Dr. JoEtta Gonzales
Superintendent