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**Patrick Kelley**  
*Superintendent*

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March 6, 2020

Dear Murrieta Valley USD Staff and Families,

As 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) concerns continue to increase in California, we want to provide families and staff with new information when appropriate. We received some information this evening regarding an employee we want to share with you.

We received news that the employee was ill and being tested for COVID-19. Out of an abundance of caution in response to the news, we have made the decision to close one of our schools, Murrieta Valley High School. The employee recently traveled to a country with a known coronavirus outbreak and will not be identified due to privacy laws.

Again, Murrieta Valley High School (MVHS) will be closed Monday, March 9, and remain closed until testing of the affected employee is complete. During the closure, the campus will be disinfected.

Public Health officials have also issued exclusion orders to 71 students instructing them to self-quarantine. These students may have come into contact with the sick individual. These actions are taken to prevent students and school personnel from becoming sick.

“While I want to reassure the students, families and staff at MVHS that the risk of transmission is low, I support the school district’s decision to temporarily close the school until testing is complete,” said Dr. Cameron Kaiser, Riverside County public health officer.

Our top priority is the health and safety of our students and staff, and we take this responsibility seriously. As a school community, there are some things that we all can do. It is still flu season and we are following the best disease-prevention practices in schools. You should also follow best practices at home, such as:

- Frequently washing your hands with soap and water
- Keeping surfaces clean
- Sneezing or coughing into a tissue or your elbow
- Most importantly, keeping your child home when they are sick with flu-like symptoms, including a fever of 100-degrees Fahrenheit or 38-degrees Celsius or higher, shortness of breath, and coughing
- Call your school if your child is staying home sick to let them know.

If you have specific questions regarding novel coronavirus, please, visit [www.rivcoph.org/coronavirus](http://www.rivcoph.org/coronavirus) or call 2-1-1. You can also call the CDC hotline at [1-800-CDC-INFO](tel:1-800-CDC-INFO).

If you have specific questions for Murrieta Valley USD, please send an email to [mvusdinfo@mvusd.org](mailto:mvusdinfo@mvusd.org) or call 951-304-1795. District personnel will be available at this number on Saturday (3/7/2020) between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. School nurses will be available on Monday beginning at 7:30 a.m.

Thank you for your support!

Murrieta Valley Unified School District Administrative Team