

March 5, 2020

A message from Superintendent Scott W. Lay:

As most of you are aware, Governor Newsom declared a state of emergency for California on March 4, 2020. Nevada County followed closely behind in declaring a local health emergency in response to the emerging, rapidly evolving situation and increasing spread of Novel Coronavirus and COVID-19, the illness caused by the Novel Coronavirus.

**There are no known cases of coronavirus in Nevada County currently.**

"Nevada County Public Health has ramped up preparedness activities as we've seen COVID-19, the illness caused by the novel coronavirus, spread in California, and diagnosed most recently in Placer County," said Jill Blake, Nevada County Public Health Director. "These declarations enhance Nevada County's ability to proactively respond to local needs if or when a confirmed coronavirus case happens in Nevada County. The emergency declarations allow the County access to additional resources such as mutual aid, financial reimbursement and increased coordination with state and local partners".

Public, charter and private schools, along with the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools Office (NCSOS), are teaming up with the Nevada County Public Health Department to provide students, families, and the public with the most accurate information available regarding the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). We strongly urge all families in our school community to rely on their local school leaders and the Nevada County Public Health Department for accurate and timely information. We want to ensure that only accurate information about COVID-19—particularly information about schools—circulates in our county. Our goal is to be proactive rather than reactive and to promote healthy behaviors amongst our students and staff.

NCSOS and local districts will communicate regularly with their school communities and pass along reliable COVID-19-related medical information provided by the Nevada County Public Health Department and/or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC](https://www.cdc.gov)). We believe collaboration and a united and joint effort is the best way to get credible information out to parents and the entire Nevada County community.

Since news of coronavirus cases began circulating, NCSOS has been meeting with district superintendents, charter directors and private school administrators providing letters to families and updating guidance as quickly as new information is received. Districts will regularly forward these letters to their school communities. School sites have been encouraged to increase their cleaning and sanitation efforts. As well, school sites are working on continuity of operations plans should the need arise to cancel events or close schools. Since there is no confirmation regarding a positive diagnosis or even symptoms, Nevada County Health Department officials have no recommendations at this time with regard to school closures.

The community can help slow the spread of coronavirus by:

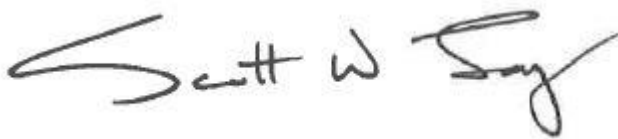
- Washing your hands often for at least 20 seconds with soap and warm water.
- Coughing into a tissue or your elbow if a tissue isn't available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth especially with unwashed hands.
- Keeping your distance from people who are sick, especially if they have a respiratory virus. If you think you are exhibiting symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath) and have been exposed to the coronavirus, call your local health care provider. Contacting them in advance will make sure that people can get the care they need without putting others at risk.

**Since there are no diagnosed local cases currently in Nevada County, now is a great time to prepare for an actual event. Nevada County Public Health is asking the community to consider how they might adjust if daily routines are disrupted by an outbreak:**

- Can you work from home/remotely?
- What are your transportation plans if public transportation is disrupted?
- If schools are closed, do you have an alternate plan for childcare?
- Do you have enough food, medications and other necessities to sustain you and your family if you need to stay home?

Student, staff and community safety and wellness is our number one goal. Working together we can help provide a safe and healthy learning environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott W. Lay". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "S".

Scott W. Lay  
Superintendent of Schools

More information can be found about the virus and appropriate safety precautions by clicking on attached links.

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/>

Nevada County Coronavirus link: <https://www.mynevadacounty.com/2924/Coronavirus>

Talking with students about Coronavirus:

[https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-\(coronavirus\)-a-parent-resource](https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-(coronavirus)-a-parent-resource)