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[www.holtville.k12.ca.us](http://www.holtville.k12.ca.us)

March 31, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Community Members:

We would like to take this opportunity to respond to a news report concerning a Holtville employee and the COVID-19 virus. This morning, we learned of a televised news report concerning our district that aired on one of the local Spanish-language stations. Please note that at no time were we contacted by this station, nor their source.

As background information, please know that our district has been in **constant** contact with the County Health Department. Should any of our employees ever test positive for the virus, we will be immediately notified. Throughout this crisis, we have been taking an abundance of caution, especially with regard to our food service program. As per the County of Imperial Public Health guidelines issued on March 20, 2020, we have performed the following procedures:

- Required social distancing precautions, including:
  - o Maintaining of a 6-foot distance between employees
  - o Use of non-congregate, "drive-through" food lines
  - o Required that all staff stay home if ill or displaying symptoms
  
- Instituted risk mitigation measures, including:
  - o Frequent hand washing with soap and water
  - o Hand sanitizer use
  - o Use of gloves and masks by all food service staff
  - o Frequent disinfecting of cafeteria food prep surfaces and equipment with bleach-based products
  - o Daily temperature monitoring of staff members taken outside of food site

On Monday morning, one of our food service staff members reported to work and proceeded to the supervisor's office for a daily temperature reading. While the employee's temperature was normal, the employee complained of flu-like symptoms. Out of an abundance of caution, the supervisor **immediately** sent the employee home. The employee was at the office for no more than 5 minutes, and at no time did the employee handle any food, food equipment, nor come into contact with any other food preparation employee. The food service site was immediately **disinfected for the third time in a 24-hour period.**

The District then contacted the County of Imperial Health Department, and is now taking their recommendations. The Health Department advised the district to continue food service, but reiterated the need to sanitize the food service area, along with all equipment, which the District has done. The Health Department is now supervising the testing of the employee for COVID-19, **only as a precaution**, and will notify us as soon as results are available. **At this time, we have NO reason to believe that the employee is infected.** For any news agency and/or individual to report this to the public is not only unethical and a violation of the employee's privacy, but is also dangerous to the safety and well-being of the community at large.

Please know that from the beginning of this crisis we have **always** sought to put the safety of students, staff, and the community at the forefront of everything we do. We are in an unprecedented time in our history, but we remain vigilant here at the District to ensure that we are taking every precaution to safeguard our community. Should there be any case of COVID-19 that is confirmed within our staff, we will notify the community as per the guidelines issued to us by the County Health Department. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.


Sincerely,



Celso Ruiz  
Superintendent



John-Paul Wells  
Assistant Superintendent



Lucy Chabolla  
Food Service Director

Board of Trustees

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