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Murrieta Valley High School closed to limit exposure to novel coronavirus (COVID-19)

Murrieta Valley Unified School District officials announced the closure of one of its schools out of an abundance of caution in response to the news that an employee was ill and being tested for novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The individual recently traveled to a country with a known coronavirus outbreak and will not be identified due to privacy laws.

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

“The health and safety of our students is our first concern. This decision was made is to ensure their health,” said Murrieta Valley Unified School District Superintendent Pat Kelley.

Public Health officials today issued exclusion orders to 71 students instructing them to self-quarantine. These students may have come into contact with the sick individual. These actions were 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.

Coronavirus is generally transmitted through close contact with a sick person. The virus can be spread on surfaces through coughs and sneezes. It’s critical that anyone who is sick, stays home. Public health officials urge the community to cover coughs and sneezes, wash hands frequently and keep a distance from others who are sick.

For more information, visit www.rivcoph.org/coronavirus. MVHS parents can call (951) 304-1795 for more information about school district actions.

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