March 17, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians and Faculty:

You or your child may have been exposed to COVID-19 (also known as Coronavirus Disease 2019) at Willard Elementary School from March 12-13, 2020. Because of this, the Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services (Health Department), is informing parents and staff at Willard Elementary about COVID-19 and how to best protect your families and prevent the spread of the disease.

COVID-19 is a viral infection that can spread person-to-person through when people cough or sneeze. Symptoms include fever, cough, and shortness of breath, and can cause more serious illness for older adults (65+), individuals with compromised immune systems, and chronic conditions. Currently, there is no known treatment or vaccine available for COVID-19. If you or your child experience these symptoms, please contact your healthcare provider and let them know that you may have been exposed to COVID-19. Do not go to a healthcare facility without calling ahead. If you need emergency care, let 911 know you may have been exposed to COVID-19.

Because of the ongoing spread of COVID-19, it is important to practice social distancing and follow recommendations from the CDC. It is important to wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after being in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. It is also important to take steps to protect others such as staying home if you’re sick, except to get medical care. You should cover your coughs and sneezes, clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily.

If you have any questions, please contact the Communicable Disease Control Program at (562)570-4302. You can also visit our website at www.longbeach.gov/covid19 for additional information.

Sincerely,

Anissa Davis, MD, MPH
Health Officer
City of Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services