March 17, 2020

Dear San Diego Unified community,

This afternoon, we were informed by the San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency that a person(s) connected with several schools in the La Jolla community tested positive for the coronavirus (COVID-19). The schools impacted by this announcement are Bird Rock Elementary, La Jolla Elementary and La Jolla High School.

For anyone connected with those three schools in particular, there are extra precautions they should take based on this news. Principally, they should avoid social interactions and report any symptoms to their physician.

City, state and federal officials have warned of the presence of the COVID-19 pandemic in our community for some time, and it was the reason we decided to close all schools last week. Naturally, the potential presence of the virus within several school communities adds to the concern we all feel. The best advice from our public health experts continues to be that all of us should avoid groups of more than 10 people, that we should wash our hands frequently, avoid touching our faces and call a health professional if we start to experience symptoms.

As a public school system, we are committed to sharing as much information as possible with our community during this difficult time. We have set up a website with detailed information on how to help your students continue to learn, where to find food assistance and how to keep your family safe. Please visit our home page for that link: sandiegounified.org.

We continue to monitor the situation in all of our schools, in terms of positive COVID-19 tests, and we remain in continuous contact with our local public health officials. We are fortunate to have their leadership, as well as the backing of so many dedicated teachers, administrators and staff members, who are working to help our students succeed, even as our schools remain closed.

Thank you for your continued support and concern for our schools. Our community spirit is part of what makes San Diego a strong city, and I know that spirit will help us all get through these challenging times together.

Sincerely,

Cindy Marten
Superintendent