



**A Statement from San Benito CISD  
Superintendent of Schools Dr. Nate Carman:**

In San Benito CISD, the health, safety and well-being of our students and staff are our top priorities.

It's that time of year when many of us – students and employees alike – are coughing, sniffing, sneezing, and just feeling awful as a result of the cold and flu season as well as due to common allergy ailments.

Earlier today, a female student at San Benito High School (SBHS), who had recently visited the Connecticut/New York area, was experiencing a dry cough while in a classroom full of students. The student was initially taken to the school nurse, and upon preliminary evaluation, she was found to be asymptomatic in regard to COVID-19. The school nurse contacted the Cameron County Health Department (CCHD) to report the situation; the student was taken to a local hospital by her parents for clinical evaluation. The CCHD informed our school nurse that, based on her evaluation, there was no reason for any heightened concern.

With the recently elevated discussion regarding the novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) in the news, a decision was made to temporarily move the students' classmates into the library while the classroom was sanitized – as a precautionary measure.

We all play a role in reducing the likelihood of a coronavirus outbreak in our community and school district. Therefore, we encourage everyone to practice good habits, including:

- Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- Avoiding close contact with people who are sick.
- Staying home if you are sick.
- Covering your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.
- Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces daily.

At this time, there have only been a small number of confirmed cases of coronavirus in the United States. As a school district, we are closely monitoring the situation and taking guidance from the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

There is currently no recommendation to close schools in Texas.