

February 18, 2020

Dear Ms. Cao;

Concern has been raised by some about the possibility of acquiring coronavirus and contact with members of the Chinese community. I know this has been a concern that you have felt at the Thousand Oaks Chinese School.

The only way that someone in the United States, at this point, could come into contact with the coronavirus is to interact with an infected individual. Many precautions have been taken to keep the coronavirus out of our country. People are being quarantined and isolated to keep the virus out of the general population. It is also a misunderstanding that Chinese people in this country might be the ones who spread this infectious disease. Probably half of the people returning from Asia that may have been exposed are not Chinese. The possibility of encountering someone with coronavirus at the Chinese School or for that matter anywhere else in the United States at this time is vanishingly small.

Precautions that should be taken are the same for coronavirus as they are for the flu. If you're sick, stay home. Everyone should practice good hand hygiene, sneeze into the crook of their arm, wash their hands before preparing or sharing food with others and keep surfaces clean.

It is perfectly safe to attend or visit the Thousand Oaks Chinese School. If anyone needs reassurance about that, please have them call the Communicable Disease section at Ventura County Public Health. Under no circumstances should you let groundless fears in others cause you to close or limit your school's valuable mission.

Sincerely,



Robert M. Levin, MD
Health Officer
Ventura County