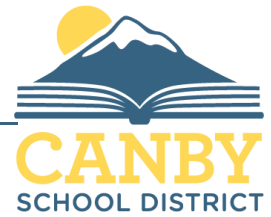


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NEWS RELEASE

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OREGON GOVERNOR KATE BROWN ISSUES NEW COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS

With the number of confirmed COVID-19 coronavirus cases in Oregon increasing, Governor Brown has announced new guidance regarding group gatherings and social distancing. We remain committed to keeping our schools open and safe, per the guidance from the Governor and the Oregon Health Authority. In accordance with the new guidance and in order to minimize potential opportunities for the virus to spread, we have decided to proactively begin suspending events that bring large groups of students, adults, and community members together.

Suspension of non-essential school-based activities begins immediately, effective Thursday, March 12, and will remain in effect until further notice. This includes the suspension of all assemblies and events, off-campus field trips, and professional development meetings and events. This includes no in-person parent-teacher conferences next week.

With regard to athletics, we are following OSSA state guidance denying audience admission at all school-based events, with the exception of essential personnel and credentialed media. The list of affected activities will grow as we work with partners and stakeholders over the coming days. The OSAA will have updates soon about spring activities and contests that are scheduled to begin next week. At this point, sports practices and club activities can continue after school. We will update any changes to these events as needed.

To be clear, we are taking every step possible so that we can continue to provide high-quality education for all of our students and keep our schools open.

We realize that this decision will impact every school community, and we know that many of the events, student performances and other gatherings that we are suspending are those that schools, students, and families look forward to all year long. Suspending these events is consistent with guidance from health authorities, and we believe it is a prudent and responsible step to take at this time. We will be working with trip planners, event organizers and others who are responsible for the affected activities.

The safety, health, and well-being of our students and staff is our highest priority. We will continue to work in close partnership with public health authorities to minimize both the spread of coronavirus and disruption to schools and students. We will continue emphasizing the importance of handwashing at school. Our custodians will continue to prioritize high-touch surfaces and we are making sure schools have adequate cleaning supplies.

Students, families and everyone in our community can best support our efforts by washing hands frequently, covering mouths when coughing or sneezing, and using hand sanitizer. Those experiencing symptoms of the cold or flu, or fever should stay at home, only returning to school or work when symptom-free for 24 hours without fever reducing medicines. If you are concerned about symptoms, please consult with a doctor.

While we recognize the importance of attending school, we also recognize the importance of students staying home when they are sick.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding during this difficult time. We will continue to rely on the guidance from the [Oregon Health Authority](#), the [Department of Education](#), and the [Office of the Governor](#).

The best source of information is the Oregon Health Authority. Their site also has links to the CDC and other resources. Oregon Health Authority officials continue to recommend people in Oregon take everyday precautions to prevent the spread of many respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19 and influenza:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with your sleeve or a tissue and then throw the tissue in the trash
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid contact with sick people and stay home if you are sick

If you have individual health concerns or questions, please seek the guidance of your healthcare provider or refer to the guidance being provided by Clackamas County Public Health and the Oregon Health Authority.

Most importantly, this is a time to follow all the recommendations from our health authorities. Please know that I will continue to keep you updated as we learn more.

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