

March 11, 2020



Dear Students, Parents and Staff:

Similar to what you might be experiencing, we are also feeling the increased concern for keeping our students, staff, and community healthy. I personally want to thank you for your continued attention to our Coronavirus (COVID-19) communication, your flexibility, and your cooperation. You trust us everyday with your students, and we intend to do everything we can to maintain that trust.

Staff is working diligently and responsibly with State and County Public Health officials to ensure the information we send is accurate, timely, and helpful. Late in the afternoon on March 10th, we received additional guidance from the [Alameda County Public Health Department \(ACPHD\)](#) regarding **how to reduce the risk related to community gatherings**. The goals of this guidance were to protect people attending and working at events, to reduce community transmission, and to slow and decrease the spread of the virus.

At this time, the ACPHD is **not recommending** school dismissals anywhere in Alameda County. However, they have provided new guidance to help ensure our students, staff and families remain safe. Consequently, we are implementing the actions below, while continuing to monitor the actions of neighboring districts and counties.

While these are difficult decisions to make, we are implementing the most recent guidance from the ACPHD. The following student events are cancelled* through the end of Spring Break:

- Field trips (including both one-day trips and overnight trips)
- School assemblies, both indoor and outdoor
- Dances and large club activities
- Evening gatherings at schools (including community-wide PTA gatherings, open houses, and fundraisers)

The following student events are considered restricted through the end of Spring Break:

- **CIF/NCS/EBAL athletic contests** may be allowed based on CIF/NCS guidance. However, we are asking the PUSD community to respect our desire to practice social distancing (arms-length from one another) and have no more than 100 spectators at each event, as per ACPHD guidance.
- **Performances and concerts** may be allowed with limited audience attendance. However, we are asking the PUSD community to respect our desire to have no more than 100 spectators at each event and to sit no closer than arm's length to one another, as per ACPHD guidance. Sites are looking into options for filming performances and concerts as an alternative plan.

Visitors and Volunteers

In order to reduce outside contact at sites, we are asking that only PUSD employees and itinerant staff contracted through the District are on campus during the school day.

The following guidelines will be in place through the end of Spring Break:

- No volunteers will be allowed on campuses
- Essential meetings (IEP, 504, SST, SSC) **will** continue as scheduled
- Students should be picked up outside of the school gates
- We are cancelling guest speakers and outside speakers who are scheduled to be on our campuses, with hopes of rescheduling at a later time
- Our facilities department is reviewing all facility rentals through April 14 and to ensure compliance with the ACPHD guidance

- People with underlying health issues ([see CDC guidelines](#)) should consider not attending any school or public event in order to be protected from the spread of infection. Additionally, people who live with or are in direct contact with individuals that are medically-fragile should consider following the ACPHD guidelines to stay away from public gatherings, such as school-related events.

Important Information for Staff

Please note that in order to ensure the availability of substitutes, **all off-site professional development and non-essential business-related travel is cancelled** until the end of Spring Break.

In closing, we recognize the hardship and disappointment, for students and staff, when important events are cancelled. However, these initial steps towards social distancing proposed by ACPHD are important ways to reduce any potential exposure. I ask for your patience and understanding regarding these increased restrictions, and anticipate needing to make additional decisions as new guidance is issued from ACPHD. Please know how much I appreciate our standing together as a community.

Sincerely,



Dr. David Haglund
Superintendent of Schools

Helpful Links:

- [Alameda County Department of Public Health](#)
- [California Department of Public Health](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [PUSD Website](#) (includes translations of letters)
- [Sign-up for E-Connection](#)

**Please note that some activities may be rescheduled to later in the year, if possible.*