

COVID-19 Update March 13, 2020 4:45

Dear parents and guardians,

Today at noon, all District Superintendents met with the Stanislaus County Superintendent of Schools and the Stanislaus County Public Health Officer to discuss next steps regarding the possibility of temporary school closures. **With the guidance of Public Health, all public schools will remain open at this time.** We recognize that this is an ever-changing situation and we will continue to make decisions to keep schools open as long as we believe it is safe for students and staff members.

Even as we see colleges canceling classes, moving to distance learning, major sporting events and other large events being cancelled, or postponed, our public health doctors still recommend that our schools stay open. If a case of COVID-19 is confirmed, for either a student or a staff member, we will be asked to consult with the Stanislaus County Public Health Department to determine the next steps and whether school closure is recommended, and for what length of time.

We support your decision to keep your children home even though all public schools remain open. If you decide to keep your child home due to illness or related concerns to the Coronavirus, it would be considered an excused absence. However, schools are open for all the students.

In the meantime, in order to prevent the spread of the flu and other viruses, remember to practice good hygiene including: wash your hands for 20 seconds; use hand sanitizer; cough or sneeze into your sleeve or tissue; and stay home if you are sick with a fever and other flu-like symptoms.

We encourage you to also visit the Stanislaus County Health Services Agency website at <http://schsa.org/publichealth/pages/corona-virus/>. Additional information can be found on the Centers for Disease Control website at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/>. We will work closely with Stanislaus County Public Health Officer to monitor the situation and provide updates as necessary.