



## COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

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March 11, 2020

Dear OUSD Community,

We are writing to share the latest information regarding coronavirus (COVID-19). As this situation is developing rapidly we want to ensure you have the most up-to-date guidance regarding events and the decision to keep schools open.

### **All OUSD Schools Remain Open**

As of this writing, we are not aware of any confirmed cases of COVID-19 in any OUSD school, and all schools will remain open. If, at some point, a student, teacher or staff member at a school site tests positive for COVID-19, the school would close temporarily (estimated two weeks). School closure is not something we take lightly. The California Department of Education laid out some of the considerations when making decisions to close schools ([School Closure Considerations](#)).

### **New Guidance on Canceling/Postponing OUSD Events Through The End of Spring Break (Apr. 5)**

Yesterday, we received new COVID-19 guidance from [Alameda County Public Health Department](#) (ACPHD) which recommends “postponing or canceling non-essential mass gatherings and large community events.”

Given the new guidance, OUSD decided to postpone or cancel all non-essential events and field trips through the end of OUSD's Spring Break (Apr. 5, 2020). This includes events sponsored by OUSD or held on OUSD property (e.g., school assemblies, performances, evening gatherings such as PTA gatherings and open houses). The decision does not address athletic events and will be updated once that information is available.

Individual event organizers/leaders will review the new guidance with their supervisors and notify all participants about whether the event is cancelled or postponed. For example, unfortunately, this new guidance means we will have to postpone events such as the School Site Council Summit (Mar. 12) and the annual Latino Honor Roll (Mar. 21) among other large events.

### **District Meetings Will Continue**

Tonight's Board meeting will be held at 5:30 pm (preventive and social distancing measures will be implemented). We encourage you to watch on our website at [www.ousd.org/boewatch](http://www.ousd.org/boewatch) and participate with [online](#) public comments. You can also view Board meetings on channel 27 (Comcast) and channel 99 (AT&T) in Oakland.

The decision to cancel large gatherings is part of our collective effort to help keep our community safe. We will continue to monitor the guidance of the county public health department and will update the OUSD community if they send out new information.

All of us at OUSD appreciate your patience and understanding as we confront this unprecedented situation. Please let us know your thoughts by taking this brief [survey](#).

Sincerely,

OUSD Communications Team