



COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

March 12, 2020

The health and safety of OUSD students and employees is our top priority. Amid the current health concerns regarding COVID-19, we are writing with another update. As you know this situation is developing rapidly and our commitment is to share the most up-to-date information.

Following Alameda County Recommendations: All OUSD Schools are Open Tomorrow

The Alameda County Public Health Department (ACPHD) is reporting [7 cases of COVID-19](#) in Alameda County but there are no confirmed cases in any OUSD school. At this time, ACPHD is not recommending school closure so all schools will remain open tomorrow, Friday, March 13. If, at some point, a student, teacher or staff member at a school site tests positive for COVID-19, the school would close temporarily. ACPHD public health experts say closing schools wouldn't necessarily protect students from COVID-19, unless they stay at home and away from all other people. Public officials have not yet called for closing schools because of the hardships it would place on many families, the difficulty in providing academic services and, importantly, how much many students depend on school meals.

Postponement of OUSD/OAL Athletics

All Oakland Athletic League games (both league and non-league) are canceled effective immediately through at least Sunday, April 5. This action aligns with guidance from ACPHD because one primary way to slow the spread of COVID-19 is to limit interactions of groups of individuals who do not normally interact. That would include members of different athletic teams. **Practices will continue until further notice.**

This weekend's state championship games, including one featuring the Oakland Tech Girls Basketball Team, were also canceled.

Gatherings and Events in OUSD Buildings: Yesterday, we announced [New Guidance on Canceling/Postponing OUSD Events](#) through the end of spring break (April 5). This guidance is part of our collective effort to help keep our community safe. We will continue to follow ACPHD guidance and will update the OUSD community if they send out new information. We will work with individual school sites and departments to get the exact list of events to be canceled or postponed.

Again, we are taking these precautions to help contain the possible spread of COVID-19 – not only in our schools and among our families but in the rest of the community. Health officials have clearly communicated that implementing “social distancing” – i.e., reducing the possibility that people who are infected come in contact with others – is a key part of limiting the spread of this disease. We want to be proactive in our approach to controlling the spread of this worrisome virus in our schools and our communities. For more information please see our website at <https://www.ousd.org/coronavirus>

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](#).