



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

March 25, 2020

Title: **OUSD SCHOOL CLOSURES EXTENDED THROUGH MAY 1**

Hello OUSD Students, Staff and Families,

It has now become clear that the effort that we have been putting forward to protect our community must continue. That's why six Bay Area counties have now **extended the closure, originally scheduled through April 5, through at least May 1**. The Alameda County Office of Education announced the extension in a press release this morning.

I know this will be a major challenge for everyone and I'm sorry for all the hardship it's causing. This hasn't been easy for any of us, and I appreciate all that you are doing to keep yourselves, your families and friends and all of Oakland safe from the spread of coronavirus.

Public health experts tell us the most effective way to minimize the impact of Covid-19 is by keeping all of us away from each other. That can't happen if the schools are open. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) says longer school closures of eight or more weeks seem to be more effective at slowing the spread of Covid-19 than shorter closures.

Please know that although schools will remain closed we are quickly changing the way we operate so we can continue to serve our students, staff, and community.

- Our successful **Grab and Go free meals program will continue on Monday and Thursday mornings throughout the closure, and that includes next week during spring break**. For a complete list of schools where you can pick up free breakfast, lunch and supper, please visit our website, <https://www.ousd.org/covid-19studentmeals>.
- Our **Continuity of Education plan** will continue. Importantly, we are working to fill a critical need in our city, and that is getting technology into the hands of our students. My team is putting together plans to distribute devices to students who need them to do online learning. We will announce soon when and where that will happen. For more information about learning, please visit <https://www.ousd.org/covid-19studentlearning>.

We still do not know what all the ramifications of the closure are, but we are working with the Alameda County Office of Education and the California Department of Education to gather information for you as quickly as possible about what the extended closure will mean for the rest of the school year, graduation, and what all students, families and staff should expect.

Despite the extension of this closure, I know we will get through this, hopefully to a world that is much safer for all of us.



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Respectfully,

Kyla Johnson-Trammell
Superintendent