

3-12-2020

Parents and Guardians,

In response to the latest information on Covid-19 (Coronavirus) from California Governor Gavin Newsom and the California Department of Public Health, the Santa Maria Joint Union High School District would like to inform you of some new guidelines. These guidelines are being implemented in a uniform manner across all Santa Barbara County schools and districts.

Beginning tomorrow, March 13th, 2020, all Santa Maria Joint Union High School District schools will be canceling or postponing all non-essential events, activities, gatherings and travel through, at least, the remainder of March. This includes before and after school athletic and co-curricular practices or activities. At this time normal school day hours and operations will continue.

Santa Barbara County Superintendent of Schools, Susan Salcido states: "School itself is an essential gathering and will continue unless the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department gives direction otherwise. Each school district is carefully balancing the importance of public health with the need for students to learn and be provided with continued school supports."

The Santa Maria Joint Union High School District, as well as the Santa Barbara County Education Office (SBCEO) are in frequent communication with Santa Barbara County Department of Public Health (SBCPHD) and the Santa Barbara County Office of Emergency Management (SBCOEM) on issues related to students, their families and our schools. We will continue to use all available avenues of communication to notify parents of any new information or changes as occur. These avenues include phone messaging, emails and posting information on our district website's homepage.

Questions regarding specific school-based events should be directed to the school site. Other questions can be addressed by contacting the individual school sites, or the district office. Please refer to the links provided below for additional information from the Governor, and the California Department of Public Health:

<https://www.gov.ca.gov/2020/03/11/california-public-health-experts-mass-gatherings-should-be-postponed-or-canceled-statewide-to-slow-the-spread-of-covid-19/>

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/Gathering_Guidance_03.11.20.pdf