

March 15, 2020

URGENT NOTICE OF SCHOOL CLOSURES

Today, following the recent declaration of a national emergency by our President, the Governor's Executive Orders, and the growing concerns for our staff and student safety, the ***Santa Maria Joint Union High School District has made the extremely difficult decision to close all schools for students beginning Monday, March 16th through April 3rd.*** We are optimistic that we will resume classroom instruction soon, but we will continue to evaluate what is best for our students, staff and community.

During this time of school closures, we highly recommend that students and families continue to practice health and safety measures such as handwashing and social distancing. This school closure is put in place to help mitigate the spread of this virus and if our students and families congregate in groups, this can counteract these social distancing measures.

Santa Maria Joint Union High School District continues to encourage our community to take common-sense precautions to prevent the spread of infectious germs:

- If you are sick, stay home.
- Avoid close contact with those who are already sick.
- Cover your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing with a tissue or the crook of your arm.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water. If you don't have access to soap and water, hand sanitizer with an alcohol content of 60% or more is a great alternative
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.

We will continue to monitor the situation and update the school community as conditions warrant.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Regarding COVID-19 (coronavirus)

Q) Will students still have access to meals while schools are closed?

A). Yes, Monday (3/16/20) lunch will be provided at the students' nearest comprehensive high school (Santa Maria, Pioneer Valley, and Ernest Righetti), at the regularly scheduled times. Students may pick up meals and then take them home. Meals cannot be eaten at school.

Starting Tuesday (3/17/20), breakfast and lunch will be served from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm in a walk-up or drive-thru pick up service for students 18 and under regardless of what school they attend or if they are on the meal program. Students must be present

in order for meals to be provided. Students will be able to receive their meals at their closest comprehensive high school (Santa Maria, Pioneer Valley, and Ernest Righetti).

Q). My student has medicine at school. How do I retrieve it?

A) On Monday, March 16 and Tuesday, March 17 during regularly scheduled school hours, all families will be able to retrieve their student's medication(s) stored at the school site.

Q) What instructional options are available to students while schools are closed?

A) We know and understand the loss that instructional time has on our students' learning. We are working on options for accessing instructional resources to engage students in continued learning during this unprecedented time.

Q). With schools closed, who can I contact with questions?

A) The District website <http://www.smjuhsd.k12.ca.us> will be updated regularly to provide up-to-date information for parents, students, and staff while schools are closed. Personnel will be available on school campuses and at the district office to answer questions.

Q). What else can we do to reduce the spread of COVID-19 while schools are closed?

A) During this time of school closures, we want to remind students and families to continue to employ health and safety measures such as handwashing and social distancing. This school closure is put in place to help mitigate the spread of this virus and if our students and families congregate in groups this can counteract these social distancing measures.

Q) Is staff working while schools are closed?

A) We expect to assess work schedules early this week. We are asking for all staff to report to their worksites, as regularly scheduled on Monday, March 16.

All permanently employed staff, inclusive of certificated and classified members will remain in paid status and will receive further direction based on identified needs.

We all acknowledge this is a very trying time for our community and we have had many staff members reach out to find out how they can help.

We will provide regular messaging regarding work schedules. Please stay in contact with your supervisors and watch for further communications from the district office.

Q). Where can we go for more information around COVID-19?

A) Center for Disease Control, California Department of Public Health, and Santa Barbara County Department of Public Health websites are all great resources for up to date facts about COVID- 19. You can also find information on our district website at <http://www.smjuhsd.k12.ca.us>.

Federal Resources

- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [Coronavirus Disease 2019 Information for Travel](#)

State Resources

- [California Department of Public Health](#)

Santa Barbara County Resources

- [Santa Barbara County FAQs](#)
- [Santa Barbara County Public Health Department](#)

Fact Sheets

- [COVID-19 Fact Sheet | English](#)
- [COVID - 19 Fact Sheet | Spanish](#)
- [COVID - 19 Fact Sheet | Arabic](#)
- [COVID - 19 Fact Sheet | Farsi](#)
- [COVID - 19 Fact Sheet | Tagalog](#)

Posters:

- [COVID - 19 Poster | English](#)
- [COVID - 19 Poster | Spanish](#)

Cleaning Guidance

- [Coronavirus COVID- 19 Disinfection Guidance | English](#)

Videos

- [COVID - 19: Be Prepared](#)
- [How to Wash Your Hands Correctly](#)