



400 Encinal Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 ☎ Tel (831) 466-5600 ☎ Fax (831) 466-5607 ☎ [www.santacruzcoe.org](http://www.santacruzcoe.org)

Date: March 16, 2020  
To: Santa Cruz County Students and Families  
Re: **All Santa Cruz County School Closure through April 10, 2020**

Dear Families of Santa Cruz County,

County Superintendents continue to work closely with the Department of Public Health to take deliberate action to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, minimize risk to our staff and school community, and provide continuity of education and essential services. Today, the Public Health Officer, Dr. Gail Newel issued a **“Shelter in Place” order for Santa Cruz County** that directs all individuals to shelter at their place of residence except to leave to access essential services or engage in essential activities and work for essential businesses and government services. To view the public health order, click [here](#).

County Superintendents and Dr. Newel and are in agreement about the need to extend school closures in line with the CAO Shelter in Place order. We have collectively decided to **extend school closures through April 10, 2020**. Superintendents will continue to work closely with Health and other officials to reevaluate whether it will be safe to re-open schools on April 13th or if a further extension of school closures is required.

The Shelter in Place order allows schools and district offices to remain in operation to provide essential services to students and families. School districts and the County Office of Education (COE) will continue to offer essential services including, but not limited to, food service and high-quality educational opportunities to students through distance learning. Our expectation is that students will actively participate in distance learning opportunities provided by their district beginning the week of March 23rd.

Please note that schools will observe the routinely scheduled break in services to students during the week of spring break. During this time, schools will not be offering food services nor distance learning. In Pajaro Valley Unified School District, spring

break will take place from March 31 through April 3rd. All other districts will observe spring break from April 6 - April 10.

Parents are encouraged to call or email their child's school or district prior to visiting the site in person if they have questions or need services beyond the food program available to their student or to pick up distance learning materials. Please find a master list of all Santa Cruz County food service distribution locations at (LINK TO FOLLOW (WE DONT WANT TO USE UNITED WAYS LINK - IT IS INCOMPLETE)

We are working diligently to ensure our online resources are updated regularly with the most accurate information from public health authorities. Please visit the Centers for Disease Control 2019 novel coronavirus website at: <https://www.cdc.gov/COVID19>. The Santa Cruz County Office of Education continues to update its web page at [www.sccoe.link/coronavirus](http://www.sccoe.link/coronavirus). For ideas on how to talk to your children about COVID-19 please visit: [sccoe.link/talking\\_about\\_COVID19](http://sccoe.link/talking_about_COVID19). For local information, residents may visit [www.santacruzhealth.org/coronavirus](http://www.santacruzhealth.org/coronavirus), call 211 or text "coronavirus" to 211211.

Thank you for your support and flexibility in these difficult times.

Sincerely,

Laurie Bruton, Superintendent, San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District  
Lorie Chamberland, Superintendent, Live Oak School District  
Eric Gross, Superintendent, Pacific Elementary School District  
Mike Heffner, Superintendent, Bonny Doon Union Elementary School District  
Tanya Krause, Superintendent, Scotts Valley Unified School District  
Michelle McKinny, Superintendent, Happy Valley Elementary School District  
Diane Morgenstern, Superintendent, Mountain Elementary School District  
Kris Munro, Superintendent, Santa Cruz City Schools  
Faris Sabbah, County Superintendent of Schools  
Scott Turnbull, Superintendent, Soquel Union Elementary School District