



Governing Board Members

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COVID-19 Update - March 25, 2020

Good afternoon Lammersville Unified School District Families,

The San Joaquin County Superintendent of Schools James Mousalimas announced via press release this afternoon his recommendation to extend public school closures county-wide through April 17, 2020. Lammersville Unified School District will follow this recommendation. Spring break is scheduled to begin Monday, March 30 and run through Friday, April 3, 2020. The District will honor this scheduled time off. Starting Monday, April 6 through April 17, LUSD will resume our current practice of “distance learning.” In this uncertain time, it is possible that further school closure extensions will be applied. However, if the County Superintendent’s recommendation date of April 17 holds, the last day of distance learning will be April 20 and traditional in-class instruction will resume on Tuesday, April 21, 2020. We will keep the community informed as new information comes available.

The District continues to work with the San Joaquin County Office of Education, the San Joaquin County Public Health Services, and all San Joaquin County School Districts. Lammersville Unified School District will continue to monitor the COVID-19 news daily. It is important to note that this extension is being made thoughtfully and with the intention to follow a prudent course. We will continue to follow the advice of experts.

The District will continue to provide drive through meal services to all children under the age of 18. There is one important exception. During spring break from March 30 – April 3, 2020, LUSD will not provide meal services during this time. Drive through meal services will resume Monday, April 6, 2020.

The District would like to thank our families, students, teachers, staff, and community members for their support in making a successful and rapid transition to distance learning. If any community member or their child needs help with this new form of learning and instruction, please contact your school site. Our sites and curriculum team members are available to assist you.

We will continue to do our best to keep you informed. Facts and circumstances may change quickly so we encourage you to check our website www.lammersvilleschooldistrict.net regularly.

Included on this webpage is the March 25, 2020 recommendation letter from County Superintendent of Schools James Mousalimas regarding the extension of school closures throughout the county.

Dr. Kirk Nicholas

COVID-19 Update - March 13, 2020

Good evening Lammersville Unified School District Families,

After careful consideration and consultation with the San Joaquin County Public Health Officer, the San Joaquin County Superintendent of Schools and school districts in San Joaquin County have made the decision to temporarily close schools to students, effective Monday, March 16, in response to the novel coronavirus. Lammersville Unified School District will follow this decision, as will all 14 San Joaquin County school districts and all San Joaquin County educational programs.

The public health crisis created by the coronavirus is not something any of us could reasonably have expected to happen, and we are in uncharted waters as we work to prevent the spread of the illness. We have been following the guidance of public health experts on how we can keep all who are part of our school community - students, staff, family members and visitors - safe in the midst of a growing health crisis. We are taking this step to keep our school communities safe. Effective Monday, March 16, we will close all Lammersville Unified public schools to students through April 6, 2020, while we evaluate the appropriate path forward. While our school facilities will be closed, plans are in place for students to continue to learn during this time. Communications will be coming forward that explain the educational plan.

This is a difficult decision, but necessary, as we try to slow the spread of the virus. The closing of any school has real consequences beyond the loss of instructional time. This is not an easy decision and not one we take lightly.

We thank you for your patience and trust as we work together to maintain some sense of normalcy in these difficult times. These next few weeks will be a challenge and we are not certain what lies ahead after that. You have our unwavering commitment to do all we can do to help you and your children.

We will continue to do our best to keep you informed. Facts and circumstances may change quickly so we encourage you to check our website www.lammersvilleschooldistrict.net regularly.

Included on this webpage is the recommendation letter from County Superintendent of Schools James Mousalimas regarding school closures throughout the county.

Dr. Kirk Nicholas

COVID-19 Update - March 12, 2020

Updated Guidance from the California Department of Public Health

Last night Governor Newsom gave direction to the State of California to postpone non-essential gatherings of 250 or more individuals. The District is following this direction and a community wide announcement was sent out at approximately 9:30 a.m. today (shown below). Additional information with guidance from the San Joaquin County Public Health Services regarding COVID-19 is detailed in the March 11, 2020 Update (following page). Please continue to review this document as it will be updated as new information is provided.

Good morning Lammersville Unified School District Families,

Yesterday evening, Governor Gavin Newsom recommended all gatherings of 250 participants or more be canceled or postponed. With this new information from our governor, LUSD will be postponing or canceling events of 250 or more students as of today. Your student's school site and the district Health page will continue to share information regarding COVID-19.

Respectfully,
Irene Busuttil
Acting Director of Student Services

COVID-19 Update - March 11, 2020

Updated Guidance from the San Joaquin County Public Health Services

On March 11, 2020, all San Joaquin County School District Superintendents, the County Superintendent of Schools, County Office of Education Officials, and the San Joaquin County Public Health Services-Lead Health Official, met to discuss state and local direction related to the management of COVID-19. At this time, the San Joaquin County Public Health Department is **recommending that schools stay open**. Currently, San Joaquin County Public Health Officials have determined the impact of closing a school outweighs any potential benefits. Closing schools would be a last resort option and would only be determined with great care, transparency and in partnership with San Joaquin County Public Health Department and the San Joaquin County Office of Education(SJCOE).

The California Department of Public Health has created a set of protocols represented by a four tier model. Based on the facts in our district and county, along with the recommendation of the San Joaquin County Public Health Services Department, LUSD remains in the first tier. The District has already implemented all of the recommendations tied to the Tier I direction from the California Department of Public Health described below. LUSD staff are in constant communication with school officials throughout the county and sharing information so that decisions are made in the best interest of public safety. Decisions have been made that are consistent with the best practices detailed by federal, state, and local experts, while providing a continuity of education for our students.

LUSD has implemented all of the recommendations for Tier I. LUSD will change its practice in addressing this issue from Tier I to Tier II, Tier II to Tier III or IV, if ever necessary, when advised by San Joaquin County Public Health Services Department in consult with SJCOE. Each Tier addresses a scenario from where LUSD stands now to the most serious scenario. LUSD has created a model to provide a general understanding of the tier based protocols.

<p style="text-align: center;">Tier 1</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Standard procedures to stop the further spread of any illness.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review guidance from CDE, CDC, and local public health agency • Review and update school safety plans • Case by case review of the attendance policy and potential travel restrictions • School exclusion for staff and students with symptoms • Encourage flu vaccine • Encourage students and staff to remain home if ill • Common Sense Precautions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handwashing • Respiratory Etiquette • Utilization of touchless hand sanitizer dispensers • Enhanced facility cleaning regimen 	<p style="text-align: center;">Tier 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Two or more community transmission cases of COVID-19 but no individuals within the school site test positive.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult with local public health agency and the San Joaquin County Department of Education • Continue with Tier 1 guidelines • Monitor students with potential symptoms and exclude if necessary • Follow sick leave policies • Limit visitors, especially those with symptoms or travel to impacted areas • Consider alternatives to large gatherings such as assemblies • Consider relaxing requirements for doctor's notes • Review plan for distance learning
<p style="text-align: center;">Tier 3</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>If student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19 and exposed others at school.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult with local public health agency and the San Joaquin County Department of Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider school closure if warranted/recommended • Establish readmission criteria • Implement communication plan for school closure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cancel after school events • Develop plan for continuity of education, medical and social services, meal programs, etc. • Consult CDC guidelines for cleaning protocols • Establish timeline for school sanitization and school reopening 	<p style="text-align: center;">Tier 4</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>If multiple schools within a school district have a student or staff member test positive for COVID-19.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult with local public health agency and the San Joaquin County Department of Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider school closure if warranted/recommended • Establish readmission criteria • Implement communication plan for school closure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cancel after school events • Develop plan for continuity of education, medical and social services, meal programs, etc. • Consult CDC guidelines for cleaning protocols • Establish timeline for school sanitization and school reopening

Tier I: Steps Taken by LUSD

Topic	Steps
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aeries communication from individual school sites • Updates to the LUSD website Health page
Cleaning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Custodial staff increased • Custodial staff directed to sanitize all touch points and common areas/surfaces • Custodial staff directed to provide additional sanitization of sites multiple times per week
Prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual Alerts posted: “Wash Your Hands” and “Cover Your Cough” • Reinforced Healthy Habits: Respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette • Separation of persons with fever or other symptoms of illness • Reminder to stay home when you are sick • Reminder of the benefit of the flu shot • Touchless hand sanitizer dispensers in high volume areas
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy Respiratory Hygiene resources shared with staff and students • Parent resources shared via district website Health page

Latest Guidance from the Public Health Department: Standard procedures to stop the further spread of any respiratory illness.

Tier I Protocols:

Topic	Guidance
School Day	Schools remain open and ready to serve students.
School Events: Meetings	Scheduled meetings will continue; attendees should practice respiratory hygiene such as “Cover Your Cough”.
Attendance	Case by case review of the attendance policy and recent travel inquiry (if applicable).
School Events: Performances	Performances will continue as scheduled and attendees are encouraged to practice respiratory hygiene.
School Events: Festivals/Competitions	Districtwide events and competitions will continue as scheduled unless otherwise notified. Attendees are encouraged to practice respiratory hygiene.
Sporting Events: Indoor/Outdoor	All indoor and outdoor sporting events, for both CIF and middle school levels, will continue to occur. Attendees are encouraged to practice respiratory hygiene.
District Sponsored Travel and Fieldtrips	Fieldtrips and travel are being evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Families will be notified if there is a change in calendar.
High Risk Populations: Elderly or those with underlying health conditions	Individuals who are at a high risk for severe illness due to age or an underlying health condition, should refrain from large gatherings such as sporting events or performances.

As new guidance and information become available from the Public Health Department, this table will be updated.

COVID-19 Update – March 6, 2020

Dear Students, Parents and Staff of the Lammersville Unified School District,

As Coronavirus (COVID-19) concerns escalate, we wanted to update you on the Lammersville Unified School District's plans for keeping our schools safe. The District is preparing for the potential impact this virus may have on our school communities. We are planning and implementing precautions recommended by experts. Additionally, we are discussing long-term plans that may need to be in place if further steps are necessary in the coming days and weeks. We are also engaged with our partners at the San Joaquin County Office of Education and the Public Health Services of San Joaquin County, in order to ensure appropriate and timely responses are taken. Please continue to be diligent in playing your role in following the best practices enumerated below.

Students or staff who are sick or showing signs of an illness should seek medical assistance and stay home until they are free from symptoms. For more information about the LUSD Student Illness procedures, please visit our website on the [Health Services](#) page. Student absences related to illness will be excused per our regular LUSD procedures.

What can you do now to prepare for possible COVID-19 exposure?

Experts recommend all individuals take these precautions to stop the spread of germs and prevent respiratory illnesses:

- Wash your hands with liquid soap and water and rub for at least 20 seconds;
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing;
- Refrain from touching your eyes, nose and mouth;
- Stay home when you are sick; and
- Get a flu shot to protect yourself and others from the flu, which has similar symptoms to COVID-19.

Healthy people should not be excluded from any activities based on their race or country of origin. **There are no racial, ethnic, or cultural links to the disease.** The health risk from COVID-19 to the general public remains low, and while COVID-19 has a high transmission rate, it has a low mortality rate. People who are well and healthy do not need to use a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory illnesses. A facemask can be worn for those who are coughing or sneezing to protect others from getting sick.

Concern over this new virus can make children and families anxious. It is very important to remember that children look to adults for guidance on how to react to stressful events. Stay calm. We have attached a link to a parent resource provided by the National Association of School Psychologists titled, ["Talking to Children about COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\); A Parent Resource."](#)

No California children have been diagnosed with the virus. Risk is still low across the state, California health officials said on Wednesday, March 4, 2020, and it is believed to be higher for older adults and persons with underlying health conditions, according to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#).

"It's natural to feel concerned about the novel coronavirus (COVID-19)," said Mark Ghaly, secretary for the California Health and Human Services Agency, at a public briefing on Wednesday. "This is a rapidly evolving situation."

But moving to the step of widespread school shutdowns could have devastating impacts on families, "most people still go into work. Most people don't have the capacity to take care of kids during the day. It would be incredibly disruptive for people's work lives and private lives. It would be no small thing," to close out schools if not absolutely necessary.

At LUSD school sites, we are working to ensure that soap dispensers are filled and that students are reminded regularly to wash their hands thoroughly and frequently.

We urge you to review the information from the San Joaquin County Public Health Department, including their updated [Coronavirus webpage](#). You may also review [this information](#) from the Center For Disease Control, as well as this [guidance sheet](#) for schools from the California Department of Public Health and a [message](#) from the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tony Thurmond . We ask that you remain respectful of all students and staff and refrain from speculation about who may or may not pose an increased risk.

If you plan to travel outside of the country for Spring Break, please review [the Information for Travel](#) page on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website for recommendations on how to keep your family safe. You may stay informed on this evolving situation by visiting the websites at [San Joaquin County Department of Public Health](#), [California Department of Public Health](#) and the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#). Additionally, proactive measures LUSD is taking to reduce student and staff exposure to any possible health risks can be found [here](#).

Please take time to review the links provided. Student Services continue to receive updates and will share new information as it becomes available.

Sincerely,

Dr. Nicholas
Superintendent