



EXCELLENCE ★ INNOVATION

Superintendent: Matt Doyle, Ed.D.

Board Members: Rich Alderson, Martha Alvarado, Debbie Morton, Rosemary Smithfield and Cipriano Vargas

Community Health Alert

March 12, 2020

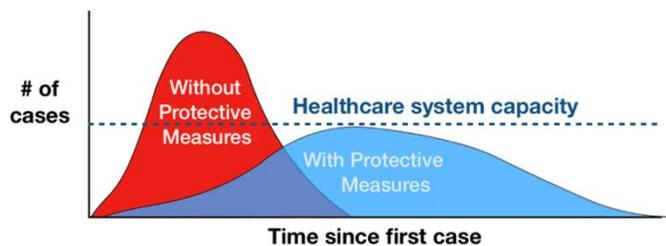
Esteemed Parents, Students, Staff, and Community Members,

This is the fourth **Community Health Alert** regarding information about the coronavirus (COVID-19) and the proactive steps the Vista Unified staff is taking to ensure the safety of all students and adults.

I have been visiting schools throughout Vista Unified these past days to listen to how parents, students, and staff feel about the status of health and safety in our district. I discovered that our schools are impressively clean, staff is positive, and students are focused on learning. Our team is responding actively to sanitizing surfaces, increasing awareness of the importance of washing your hands, and monitoring the health of all students. Our schools at this point are safe and healthy.

While this may seem like a good time to stay with our current health and safety measures, there is strong research to suggest that now is the perfect time to ramp up our efforts. We can do our part to flatten the [coronavirus curve](#) by taking proactive steps to mitigate the spread. During the coronavirus task force briefing at the White House on Tuesday evening, Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, identified that the best way to flatten the curve is to “interfere with the natural flow of the outbreak.” The best way to interfere with the natural flow is to promote social distancing before there is a problem in our community.

Coronavirus Curve



Adapted from CDC / The Economist

Mitigation efforts like social distancing help reduce the disease caseload on any given date, and can keep the healthcare system from becoming overwhelmed.
Drew Harris

As the news and understanding about the coronavirus increases and based on recommendations from Governor Gavin Newsom and the [California Department of Public Health](#), we have been looking closely at the upcoming events and travel scheduled for Vista Unified students and staff.

Although there is no cause for alarm, we feel it is best to respond proactively to any potential situations that may affect the health, safety, and wellbeing of our students and staff at events that are outlined below.

To this end, we have made the proactive decision to **cancel all non-essential events, field trips, and travel for students, and staff from March 13 to April 30, 2020.** This decision is made with an abundance of caution for all of our students, staff, and community. Please refer to the chart below for details about the scope of the event cancellations.

The purpose of Vista Unified School District is to inspire every student to persevere as a critical thinker who collaborates to solve real world problems.



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Vista Unified School District Event Cancellation Order			
Event	Required Event Cancellation	Start Date	End Date
Travel and Field Trips Outside of the District	<p>All <u>non-essential</u> travel scheduled for the purpose of instruction or business continuity will be cancelled through April 30, 2020 to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructional field trips • Out of district performances • Professional development, including conferences and workshops • Meetings out of district • Air travel <p>This action may remain in place through the end of the school year as we continue to evaluate all future travel depending on recommendations related to the status of the COVID-19 virus.</p>	March 13, 2020	April 30, 2020
Events Scheduled within the District	<p>Certain on-campus events currently scheduled up to April 30, 2020 are cancelled. Cancelled events may include, but are not limited to, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instruction-related events held on district property (assemblies, rallies, productions, performances, etc.) • Student events, including those organized by ASB and clubs • Open Houses • Classroom parties • School Connected Organizations meetings and events (Foundation, PTA, etc.) • Site visitors and volunteers • Community and outside organization events held on district property (including all public facility use requests and any event that brings outside organizations to campus for school-related activities) <p>Communication related to events that are cancelled will be disseminated through school sites and the district office. Those with scheduled performances and events after April 30, 2020 should work with their administration to evaluate options for rescheduling or cancelling.</p>	March 13, 2020	April 30, 2020
Events That Are Postponed			
High School Athletic Events	<p><u>All high school athletic events and tournaments are postponed</u></p> <p>We are in contact with the San Diego County Office of Education and CIF San Diego Section. Meetings regarding CIF athletic competitions are occurring in the next 48 hours. More information will follow on the status of competitions both on and off VUSD campuses.</p>	March 13, 2020	March 20, 2020

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Based on recommendation from San Diego County Health and Human Services, all Vista Unified Schools will remain open, and all instructional programs will proceed without interruption.

Our charge under state law is to stay open as long as our site remains safe for students and staff. As a school district, in addition to our ongoing conversations with public health, we are considering factors such as food insecurity among our students, access to the internet or resources for alternative learning methods, and the impacts for students whose families cannot stay home with them. For a large number of our students, the safest place for them to be is in school.

This situation is fluid and can change by the hour. We will continue to remain in close contact with public health officials throughout the duration of this situation and comply with all of their guidance. We have developed a robust [Health and Safety Webpage](#) to provide the most accurate and up-to-date information about the status of the COVID-19 virus. We will post updates to this webpage as soon as we receive them from the health officials. Please follow our Twitter feed to receive instant updates on the situation [@VistaBlueprint](#).

The Vista Unified School District will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates as necessary. If you have questions about these topics, please contact Student Support Services at 760-726-2170, ext. 92180. We thank you for your cooperation and support.

Sincerely,

Dr. Matt Doyle
Superintendent of Schools
Vista Unified School District

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