

**March 12, 2020**

Good afternoon PGUSD families & staff,

I am writing to provide you an update on the district's response to the COVID-19 virus. PGUSD continues to follow the [CA Department of Public Health Guidance for Schools](#). According to this guidance and guidance from the Monterey County Health Department, PGUSD schools and departments will remain open until this guidance changes.

This morning Districts across California received Governor Newsom's press release which states, in part: *The state's public health experts have determined that gatherings should be postponed or canceled across the state until at least the end of March. Non-essential gatherings must be limited to no more than 250 people, while smaller events can proceed only if the organizers can implement social distancing of 6 feet per person. Gatherings of individuals who are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 should be limited to no more than 10 people, while also following social distancing guidelines.*

As of now, he has not declared closure of schools across the state. However, there may be a local illness related decision made by the Monterey County Health Department and the school district. For the entire press release, please use the following link:  
<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/>

The District Administration COVID-19 Task Force met this morning after receiving the Governor's press release and came to a couple conclusions regarding travel and COVID-19:

- All sporting events, and practices, for PGUSD are cancelled through the end of Spring Break (Sunday, April 12, 2020) and will be reassessed at that time
- All school site Open Houses are cancelled for the remainder of the school year
- All extracurricular activities/field trips through the end of March are cancelled. At the end of March, based on directives from the Governor/State, the District will send an update on activities/field trips scheduled for April
- In the event that PGUSD is ordered by county health officials to close a school, or schools, due to illness for the recommended number of (extended) days, the District will be implementing distance learning

Today (March 12) and tomorrow we will be working with our faculty to continue on-going preparations for distance learning in the event of school closures. This is a complex process, from prepping hardware/software, staff training to deliver instruction to the extent possible, all the way through deployment of required devices. There will be a learning curve so we ask for your patience if/when the process commences.

The following distance learning procedures will be implemented so that student learning can continue remotely:

1. Deploy district Chromebooks to families in need so students can access curriculum and instruction from home.

2. Inform parents of the procedures and scheduling involved in delivering curriculum and instruction remotely.
3. Ensure that our existing enterprise resources and tools are fully operational to support online delivery of instruction. Some of these systems include:
  - a. Learning management system (e.g. Google Classroom)
  - b. Video conferencing tools (e.g. Google Hangouts)
  - c. Messaging platforms (e.g. email, social media-like tools)
  - d. Online assessments (Illuminate)

We ask that you continue to help slow the spread of COVID-19 by taking the following preventative measures:

Stay home when sick.

- Remain at home until fever has been gone for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicines.
- For severe symptoms, seek immediate medical care, e.g., high fever or difficulty breathing.
- Before going to your doctor, FIRST call your doctor's office for guidance.

Use "respiratory etiquette."

- Cover cough with a tissue or sleeve.
- Avoid handshakes

Wash hands frequently.

- Encourage hand washing by students and staff through education, scheduled time for handwashing, and the provision of adequate supplies.

I recognize that the preventive measures outlined above will cause some inconvenience and disappointment. Please know that this was a decision that did not come lightly and was made out of concern for the health of our entire community.

Please feel free to contact me at [rporras@pgusd.org](mailto:rporras@pgusd.org), Safety Director Barbara Martinez [bmartinez@pgusd.org](mailto:bmartinez@pgusd.org) or District Nurse Katrina Powley [kpowley@pgusd.org](mailto:kpowley@pgusd.org) with questions. Again, this entire situation remains dynamic and we are on the ready to adjust plans as needed. Sincerely, Dr. Ralph Gómez Porras, Superintendent