



Santa Ana Unified School District

Jerry Almendarez
Superintendent of Schools

March 27, 2020

Dear Santa Ana Unified School District (SAUSD) Community,

I'd like to take a moment to provide you with an update regarding the temporary closure of all SAUSD schools that's currently in place as a precautionary measure to help curb the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

SAUSD, like many other school districts in the State of California, is committed to doing our part to stave off the growing national public health crisis being caused by the Coronavirus (COVID-19). The health and safety of our students, family, community, staff, and educational partners is our primary concern and focus during this crisis.

Today, SAUSD has determined that in the interest of public health, SAUSD schools will now remain closed to students and staff through Friday, May 1, 2020, with instruction currently set to resume on Monday, May 4, 2020. These dates are subject to change as we receive further guidance from the OC Health Care Agency, the Orange County Department of Education and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Although there are no confirmed cases of Coronavirus (COVID-19) related to SAUSD, this step is being taken out of an abundance of caution. This is not a decision we take lightly, as we know that temporarily closing our District has a tremendous impact on our students and families. However, we have confidence that this is the proper course at this time and are taking all precautionary measures to ensure the safety and well-being of all our stakeholders.

Doing our part to slow the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19) is especially important now, as increased testing is leading to higher counts of confirmed Coronavirus (COVID-19) cases locally. The OC Health Care Agency on Thursday reported that the total number of Coronavirus (COVID-19) cases in Orange County is 256, up from 69 the previous day. This serves as a reminder of the importance of staying at home and practicing social distancing when leaving the household for essential activities.

During the school closure period, we will continue serving free, nutritious meals to all children ages 1-18 at 13 selected school sites three times a week. They are served in a grab-and-go setting that protects the safety of both our students and school personnel. Please remember to practice social distancing when picking up meals out of concern for the health of students, parents and staff, who are placing themselves on the front lines to ensure that our students receive nourishment. For a meal distribution schedule, visit www.sausd.us/coronavirus.

To keep our SAUSD scholars engaged in learning during this time, we have created instructional materials accessible to students in both printed and online platforms to minimize the impact to student learning and any loss of school days. Online documents are accessible via the district website at www.sausd.us/coronavirus.

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We would also like to remind our SAUSD community that we are gathering resources that may be of assistance and interest to our families and neighbors at this time and are posting them to our website at www.sausd.us/coronavirus. New flyers with resources on topics such as mental health resources, food distribution programs and more are added daily as a service to our community.

In addition, the County of Orange has resources available for those experiencing worry or anxiety related to the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Residents are encouraged to call 855-625-4657 or visit www.ochealthinfo.com/oclinks to talk or chat with a trained, clinical navigator. Those with medical questions may call the OC Health Care Agency's Health Referral Line at 800-564-8448 or visit occovid19.ochealthinfo.com.

As we approach the end of the school year, we will be weighing whether to cancel all end-of-the-year activities in order to comply with social distancing guidelines for the health and safety of our school communities. We will make a decision in the coming weeks and will be sure to inform all stakeholders of the outcome.

In closing, I'd like to again thank everyone for their patience and trust as we continue to adjust to the rapidly evolving situation. This is a fluid situation and SAUSD is working to provide you with the most current and clear guidance.

We will update you with additional information as it becomes available. Please be sure to visit www.sausd.us, and connect with your child's school for more updates.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry Almandarez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "J" and "A".

Jerry Almandarez
Superintendent of Schools
Santa Ana Unified School District