

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding COVID-19 (coronavirus) **Updated March 12, 2020**

Q). Are schools being closed because of the coronavirus?

A). No, not currently. While there is one confirmed case of COVID-19 in Fresno County involving an individual who recently was on a Grand Princess cruise, at this time, the county doesn't see any need for school closures.

However today, in response to new guidance from Governor Newsom, Fresno Unified postponed all non-essential group gatherings through at least April 13th, 2020 as we continue to evaluate. Those non-essential gatherings being postponed include but are not limited to:

- Athletic competitions and tournaments, but practices can continue as planned
- All field trips including camps
- VAPA events, assemblies, open houses, dances and award ceremonies
- All professional learning – site and district sponsored as well as PLC meetings
- ELAC, DELAC and other large parent and community gatherings
- Civic contracts, including all outside community organizations that utilize district space
- Parent University parent modules and meetings

For sites that serve our most medically fragile students—Addicott, Rata and ATP, for their well-being, we are limiting visitors to the office, including volunteers.

Governor Newsom reiterated today, that school is essential for students and his purpose was to help provide strategies in assisting staff, students and communities to reduce potential risk, especially those identified as a higher risk—the elderly and those with pre-existing health conditions. While the health risk to the general public in California from COVID-19 continues to remain low, and especially here locally, we are following this newly released guidance.

Fresno Unified continues to encourage our community to take common-sense precautions to prevent the spread of infectious germs:

- If you are sick, stay home.
- Avoid close contact with those who are already sick.
- Cover your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing with a tissue or the crook of your arm.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water. If you don't have access to soap and water, hand sanitizer with an alcohol content of 60% or more is a great alternative
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.

Q). What about field trips and conferences. Are they being cancelled?

A). As of today, March 12, all school, club and extra-curricular trips have been postponed through April 13, 2020. This includes district non-essential travel as well.

Q). Should students and staff wear masks at school?

A). Health professionals continue to tell us that wearing a mask if you are not experiencing symptoms is not an effective plan for avoiding a virus. Masks should only be worn if you are sick and showing signs of respiratory challenges, much like you would if you were coughing and sitting in the doctor's office waiting to be seen. It also reduces the number of available masks for healthcare providers and those truly sick.

Q) What is the district doing to address COVID-19?

A) The district has postponed all non-essential activities and travel. Fresno Unified has contingency plans in place and will continue to fine tune with direction from the county, state and CDC. Our warehouse has added supplies to help sites and district offices sanitize frequently surfaces like laptops, tablets, phones, counters and doorknobs.

Staff has already begun to identify resources to help students stay connected to classroom learning in the unlikely event families need to self-monitor and shelter at home or school activities are impacted.

Fresno Unified staff is going to continue to monitor and communicate regularly to students, staff and parents through our usual district communication tools, including Peachjar, Employee Zone and the district website, to name a few.

Q). Where can we go for more information?

A). [CDC](#), [California Department of Public Health](#), and [Fresno County Department of Public Health](#) websites are all great resources for up to date facts about COVID- 19. You can also find information on our district website at fresnounified.org.