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## Riverside Unified School District

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DAVID C. HANSEN, ED.D.  
District Superintendent



March 12, 2020

Good Evening RUSD Staff, Families and Community:

We are all concerned with the spread of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). As school district employees and members of the community, we recognize that we must take appropriate measures to do our part in controlling and containing this potential spread of the virus. **Please know that schools remain open.** Even though the State has declared a public health emergency, schools are an essential service, providing meals, security and resources to children and families. Working together, we will do our best to protect our children, our employees and our community at large. During this uncertain time we believe our teachers' and staff members' relationships with students are vital to maintaining a calm and engaging school environment and thus considerations have been made to keeping staff on campus.

Out of an abundance of caution, and in association with directives / recommendations from the Governor of California and the Riverside Department of Public Health, the Riverside Unified School District will immediately implement the following guidelines for essential and non-essential events and/or activities until further notice. *Essential school activities are those required by Education Code or federal law.* Types of essential functions include:

- School Attendance, including lunch, recess and before and after school programs (e.g. HEARTS and Primetime.)
- Mandated professional developments and/or certification renewals required for employment.

### **CANCELLED/POSTPONED EVENTS:**

#### **Students:**

- All non-essential **FIELD TRIPS POSTPONED**, including, but not limited to:
  - School to school visits (e.g. 6th grade visits to middle schools, 8th grade visits to high school)
- School to community visits (e.g. visit to local business, leadership organization, job shadowing, etc.)
- In-state and out-of-state trips (e.g. theme parks, college visits, science camp, visual and performing arts events, Career Technical Education visits)
- All non-essential **SCHOOL EVENTS POSTPONED**, including, but not limited to:
  - Prom, School Dances
  - Assemblies
  - Awards Ceremonies
  - Movie Nights, Carnivals
  - Open House

- All **VISUAL and PERFORMING ARTS EVENTS POSTPONED** (Elementary, Middle and High School)
- All **ATHLETIC EVENTS POSTPONED** (Elementary, Middle and High School)
- All non-essential extra and **CO-CURRICULAR EVENTS POSTPONED**, including, but not limited to:
  - Student club events with outside participants
- **All VENDOR AND COMMUNITY PROVIDED SERVICES DURING AND AFTER SCHOOL POSTPONED**, including but not limited to Art to Go, Riverside Arts Academy, Creative Brain.

#### **RUSD Staff:**

- All non-essential adult **TRAININGS**, professional development, and/or conference events including virtual events **CANCELLED** (e.g. Virtual CUE conference)

#### **Parents and Community:**

- All non-essential **IN-PERSON MEETINGS POSTPONED** or encouraged to use virtual means, including, but not limited to:
  - AAPAC, DELAC, ELAC, PTA, SSC (except for when mandated).
- School site **VOLUNTEERING** is limited to the parents and guardians of the registered student who attends the school site.
- **POSTPONED** parent/community led events or activities include, but is not limited to, book fairs, picture days, classroom support, team/club support, office and library support.

#### **Facilities Use:**

- **FACILITIES USE** by outside groups (e.g. civic, church, sports) will be **CANCELLED**.

#### **APPROVED EVENTS/ACTIVITIES** *(limited to staff and students only)*

- Essential school activities (those required by Education Code or federal law)
- Athletic practices and Performing Arts rehearsals may continue

#### **EVENTS WE ARE MONITORING**

- State Science Fair
- State & National History Day
- End of the Year Recognitions and Celebrations (e.g. Celebrating Student Excellence, Volunteer events, and Banquets etc.)
- Grad Night
- Promotion
- Graduation

We will continue to evaluate upcoming events regularly to determine if currently postponed events will be cancelled. Reimbursement information for cancelled events will be provided at a later date. Regular updates will be provided on our website at [www.riversideunified.org](http://www.riversideunified.org).

We recognize the difficult circumstances these decisions place on our students, staff and families. It is necessary for RUSD to be responsible global citizens and do our part to prevent the spread of this contagious virus and to protect all members of the Riverside community.

Riverside Unified School District has been actively working within the Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines and Riverside County Public Health to ensure student and staff safety. Through guidance with the Public Health Department, the Riverside Unified School District is working

diligently to keep school sites clean and disinfected for all students. It is our standard protocol to wipe down all surfaces every day with disinfectants; however, we have increased the frequency of these measures.

Per CDC protocols, we are encouraging everyone to practice good healthy habits to help prevent illness including:

- Frequently washing their hands for 20 seconds
- Covering their nose and mouth when sneezing and coughing
- Staying home if they are sick

We understand the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a concern for many of our parents and students. We ask that you keep in mind that this is a virus and it is not specific to any single race or ethnicity. Please speak with your children about cultural sensitivity.

We will continue to provide further updates from the CDC and Riverside Public Health as they are available. We encourage you to access the resources on:

Centers for Disease Control - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/summary.html>

Riverside Public Health – <https://www.rivcoph.org/coronavirus>

Riverside Unified School District - [www.riversideunified.org](http://www.riversideunified.org)

RUSD wants to thank our communities in advance, knowing that lives will be disrupted to some extent during this fluid time.

Thank you,  
Riverside Unified School District