



Mount Diablo Unified School District

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March 11, 2020

Governing Board

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On Tuesday, March 10, 2020, we received updated guidelines from the Contra Costa Health Services (CCHS). The guidelines are meant to help reduce the spread of the COVID-19. It is important to note that the County Health Services Department is not recommending any school closures in our County at this time. At this time, there are no confirmed cases of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) at any k-12 public school in our County. The Contra Costa Health Services is in direct communication with me and other Superintendents across the County. If there is a person (student, staff, family member) who is diagnosed with the COVID-19 virus from one of our schools, then the Health Services Department will contact me so we can plan accordingly.

Superintendent

Dr. Robert Martinez

The updated guidelines from County Health Services are in place for a two week period, with the expectation they will be updated. The guidelines recommend more restrictions on gatherings of over 50 people and on people at higher risk. According to the CCHS, people at higher risk include: People who are 50 years or older; current evidence is the risk of severe illness increases with age, and people of any age who have underlying medical conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, cancer, COPD or who are immunocompromised. You can see the entire letter from the Contra Costa Health Services [here](#).

Out of a desire to remain vigilant, and work within the guidelines provided by CCHS we have made some difficult decisions to stay within the current parameters provided.

Please read the information below about how we are implementing the guidelines in the Mt. Diablo Unified School District (MDUSD) during this period. We are implementing the following through April 2, 2020, and will revise and update as we receive more information.

- For CIF athletic events, we will continue to hold them as scheduled. We will not be allowing any spectators for those games during this time period. All high schools in Contra Costa County are following this guideline so any games played in a Contra Costa County public high school will not be allowing spectators. Other Counties may have different guidelines/rules, so we will follow their guidelines/rules for any games outside of Contra Costa County. I know this is a difficult ask and I know how much you love watching your child play or cheering on our teams. I really get it. We are doing our best to support the guidelines from the County Health Services in order to slow any spread of this virus in the larger community.

- We will be rescheduling other events where we expect to have a turnout of 50 or more people from the community attending. This does not include student-only or regular school-day events. We will send out more specific information on those events this week.
- We are collecting a list of all field trips and other school sponsored activities scheduled during this timeframe and will address those on an individual basis. Please communicate with your principal regarding the status of those. Principals should be communicating via their website, email, and other forms of communication directly to their school communities.
- All non-district facility usage where 50 or more attendees would have been expected will be canceled during this timeframe.
- Our custodial staff, and where needed maintenance staff are being directed to support the cleanliness of our schools.
- We are working to ensure that our schools have soap, hand sanitizer, and we will continue to do so. We will be delivering extra boxes of tissues this week. The best defense remains to wash hands for a minimum of 20 seconds.
- Any employee or student who has visited a country on the Level 3 Travel Notice (China, Italy, South Korea, Iran) within the last 14 days will need to remain out of school for a two-week period or other timeframe depending on medical advice. This would be an excused absence and we would arrange homework for your child to complete. Also, if you are a parent/family member who has visited those countries within the last 14 days, please do not come to the school or make arrangements through the principal on how to pick up your child.

One thing we do know is that things are likely to change as we receive more information and or as the virus impacts more communities. We will continue to communicate any updates via our email system, social media accounts, and through phone messenger.

To confirm, these restrictions are in place through April 2, 2020, which will takes us through to spring break. I am certain we will be having updates prior to that time with respect to any new information.

Our current plan is to keep schools open as we have not received any guidance that closing schools should occur, and school is seen as an “essential” function for our students. We do understand that some families will make a decision to keep their students home during these difficult times, and we will work to support the continuance of education for all of our children.

Thank you,

Dr. Robert Martinez
Superintendent
Mount Diablo Unified School District