

Joint Notice of Countywide Closure of All Public Schools

March 16, 2020

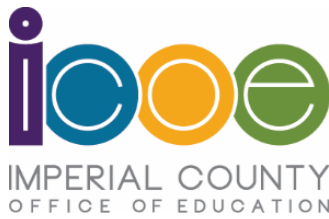
Residents of Imperial County,

The safety and wellbeing of students, families, and school personnel are the highest priorities of all Imperial County schools and districts. As of today, there are two (2) presumptively positive cases of the COVID-19 disease in Imperial County. In advance of more COVID-19 cases that could follow, Imperial County School District Superintendents and the Imperial County Office of Education have decided in concurrence with the Imperial County Public Health Department to **close all public Imperial County schools beginning tomorrow, March 17 through Friday, April 17, 2020**. We will reassess during this time whether an extension of school closures will be necessary.

Imperial County Public Health Officer, Dr. Stephen Munday, reports that while the current cases of COVID-19 are presumptively positive and travel related, with no evidence of community transmission in Imperial County at this time, these numbers may grow in the coming days and weeks which may require a more lengthy closure and/or additional measures.

Our staff will work together throughout the closure to provide vital services and resources our schools offer to our community, including, but not limited to, meal programs. Schools will be contacting families promptly about services available to them throughout the closure.

While we recognize this decision will pose significant challenges and hardship to many families in our county, an effective way to slow and disrupt the transmission of this pandemic is by implementing social distancing practices. During the time of the school closure, we are asking that students and families follow the County Public Health Officer's recommendation to **stay home and minimize social contact to the extent possible**. Protecting public health requires a community-wide response, and we will need the help of families to remain united in our response. While children have not been shown to be a high-risk group for serious illness from COVID-19, they are still able to transmit the virus to populations who are most vulnerable to serious illness, such as older adults and those with compromised immune systems. Please encourage students to avoid large public gatherings such as malls, movie theaters, and other spaces, especially those that are indoors.



We understand that these closures will be challenging and disruptive, and we appreciate your patience and cooperation. We are grateful to community members throughout our county for their tremendous efforts during these challenging times.

This is a dynamic situation where information and circumstances can evolve quickly.

For the latest information from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), visit the 2019 novel coronavirus website at <https://www.cdc.gov/COVID19>.

For local information, visit the Imperial County Public Health Department at <http://www.icphd.org>.

Sincerely,

Dr. Richard Rundhaug, Superintendent, Brawley Elementary School District
Simon Canalez, Superintendent, Brawley Union High School District
Carlos Gonzales, Superintendent, Calexico Unified School District
Douglas Kline, Superintendent, Calipatria Unified School District
Dr. Ward Andrus, Superintendent, Central Union High School District
Jon LeDoux, Superintendent, El Centro Elementary School District
Juan Cruz, Superintendent, Heber Elementary School District
Celso Ruiz, Superintendent, Holtville Unified School District
Dr. Todd Finnell, County Superintendent, Imperial County Office of Education
Bryan Thomason, Superintendent, Imperial Unified School District
Blaine Smith, Superintendent, Magnolia Union School District
Laura Dubbe, Superintendent, McCabe Union School District
Keila Rodriguez, Superintendent, Meadows Union School District
Chelsey Galindo, Superintendent, Mulberry Union School District
Rauna Fox, Superintendent, San Pasqual Unified School District
Andrea Ellis, Superintendent, Seeley Union School District
Richard Cordero, Superintendent, Westmorland Union School District
Edwin Oberfell, Superintendent, Imperial Valley Regional Occupational Program
Janette Angulo, Director of Public Health, County of Imperial