

## JOINT NEWS RELEASE - Imperial County Schools COVID-19 Update

March 13, 2020

Contact: Alvaro Ramirez

Imperial County Office of Education, Safety and Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

[alvaro.ramirez@icoe.org](mailto:alvaro.ramirez@icoe.org)

Maria Peinado

Imperial County Public Health Department, Public Information Officer

[mariapeinado@co.imperial.ca.us](mailto:mariapeinado@co.imperial.ca.us)



Imperial County – Public schools serving Transitional Kinder-12<sup>th</sup> grades throughout Imperial County are committed not only to the educational needs of our students, but to the safety and wellbeing of all. Earlier today, Superintendents from Imperial County school districts met to collaborate with Imperial County Public Health officials and discuss the current state of COVID-19 virus in our community in an effort to exert social responsibility and align proactive measures to prevent disease spread.

Superintendents from our schools are fully aware of the actions of neighboring counties. The guidance from the California Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) aid in making rational, well-informed decisions in times of uncertainty. After consulting with Imperial County Public Health officials and evaluating local health trends, our public schools serving Transitional Kinder-12<sup>th</sup> grades will remain open at this time. However, information related to the spread of COVID-19 changes quickly. Therefore, we have established protocols to ensure the most up-to-date information is shared with stakeholders and is used to make informed decisions should circumstances change.

School districts throughout Imperial County, the Imperial County Public Health Department, Imperial County Office of Education, and our first responders are committed to continually collaborate in order to ensure the impact of the COVID-19 virus on our community is minimized.

The Imperial County Public Health Department recommends the following as best practices to prevent respiratory illness including COVID-19:

- Wash hands often with soap and water.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

-Imperial County Superintendents, Imperial County Public Health Department, and Imperial Valley First Responders