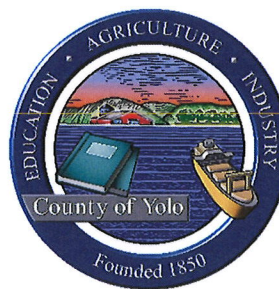


Yolo County

OFFICE OF EDUCATION



March 10, 2020

Dear Yolo County Superintendents,

As you are aware, on March 10, the Yolo County Department of Public Health [made statements in a press release](#) that signaled a change in approach from previous communications. Per this guidance, communities, governments, businesses, and schools are encouraged to postpone or cancel gatherings and community events where large numbers of people are within arm's length of one another. The goal is to avoid as many situations with a high density of people.

These "social distancing" recommendations are meant to slow the spread of COVID-19 in our community and reduce the number of people infected, and especially protect those who are most vulnerable to severe illness. This is a critical moment in the growing outbreak of COVID-19 in Yolo County when such measures can potentially slow the spread of the disease.

Staff from Yolo County Public Health Department are working closely with the Yolo County Office of Education (YCOE) and with district leaders in the county to provide specific guidance related to implementation of social distancing measures in local schools. The following guidelines represent current recommendations and school districts, although not required to do so, are strongly encouraged to implement these measures effective, March 11, through April 30, in order to continue to provide a high-quality education for all students:

Event Cancellations

Specific upcoming events that should be considered for cancellation include:

- All field trips
- All school dances
- Assemblies
- Professional learning events
- Parent education events
- School open houses
- Career Fair (substitute event as applicable)
- District Leadership Institute (substitute event as applicable)
- All elementary and middle school performances
- Other community events or programs held at school sites

Additional Restrictions for District Consideration

To the extent possible, and in an effort to limit the exposure in our community, the following restrictions should be considered:

- Outside rentals of DISTRICT facilities be cancelled until the end of the school year. Exceptions would be made on a case by case basis.
- High school athletic events and performances be held with significantly limited audiences in attendance and that they be held in the largest venues on campus to accommodate guidance on increased social distancing. School administrators would determine admittance protocols per venue capacity and spectator interest.
- Recognize that high school sporting event restrictions may be changed if additional guidance and/or restrictions are provided by the CIF.

Events scheduled to occur after May 1, could be held as currently scheduled, with the understanding that these events may be recommended for cancellation given this dynamic and rapidly evolving situation.

Sample language for meeting/event/training change from in-person to virtual or cancellation:

To **change a meeting/event/training from in-person to virtual**, consider use of the following script:

Dear [insert],

As you are well aware, the COVID-19 situation is fluid and our monitoring is ongoing. Out of an abundance of caution, we will be converting our [insert] from an in-person event originally planned to take place at the [insert district name] on [insert date] to a virtual event via Zoom. This will allow us to continue to engage in this important work together and keep the momentum, while also abiding by current guidance from the Placer and Yolo County Health officers regarding gatherings and events (see attached). Although the information regarding COVID-19 is ever evolving, we wanted to give you enough time to cancel any travel arrangements you may have scheduled for that day. Thank you for your understanding.

As a reminder, it is recommended that individuals and families follow these preventative measures to limit the spread of respiratory diseases such as COVID-19:

- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, then throw it in the trash can.
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds; especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- Routinely clean frequently touched surfaces and objects.

Thank you.

[insert name]

To **cancel a meeting/event/training**, consider use of the following script:

Dear [insert],

As you are well aware, the COVID-19 situation is fluid and our monitoring is ongoing. Out of an abundance of caution, we will be cancelling our event originally planned to take place at the [insert district name] on [insert date] in order to abide by current guidance from the Placer and Yolo County Health officers regarding gatherings and events (see attached). Thank you for your understanding.

As a reminder, it is recommended that individuals and families follow these preventative measures to limit the spread of respiratory diseases such as COVID-19:

- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, then throw it in the trash can.
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds; especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- Routinely clean frequently touched surfaces and objects.

Thank you.

[insert name]

School Closures

At this time, the Yolo County Public Health Department is not recommending closing schools. If a staff member or student in a specific school is confirmed to have COVID-19, the Superintendent and local public health officials will consider, based on the specific facts and circumstances of that case, whether closure of that school is warranted. The Public Health Department is not recommending school closures at this time because individuals under 18 years of age have not been shown to be a high-risk group for serious illness from this virus. Should the Public Health Department determine a school closure is warranted, the duration is likely to be the length of time needed to conduct cleaning protocols and determine readmission criteria.

All instructional and extra-curricular activities would cease in the event of a school closure.

Health Guidelines Remain the Same

The same simple steps that prevent the spread of ordinary flu viruses work against COVID-19 and other illnesses.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Cough into a tissue or your elbow (not your hand). Then throw tissue away and wash hands.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Keep students home if temperature is above 100.0 F (37.8 C) or they report not feeling well, appear weak or ill.
- Consult your health care provider if you or your child has special health conditions that put you at increased risk.

Spring Break Travel

As a reminder, if your families or staff plan to travel to any affected international locations over the upcoming spring break, they will be subject to the quarantine guidelines and any new guidelines that may be implemented. We ask that anyone traveling to any affected countries follow all related guidelines to support the health and safety of our community. For people traveling OUT OF the country, check with the CDC website and be prepared, quarantine rules in each country may differ: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel>. If you are returning to the U.S. from another country, there may also be precautions or delays: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>.

For trusted and verified information, these websites should be used as resources:

- CDC website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/>
- California Department of Public Health: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/ncov2019.aspx>
- Yolo County Coronavirus page: <https://www.yolocounty.org/coronavirus>.

The rapid development of COVID-19 has created significant challenges and stresses for communities throughout Yolo County. Our teams will make all attempts to keep you informed and updated. We greatly appreciate your continued participation during scheduled conference calls and keeping the health department updated with your questions, communications, and concerns.

Our primary goal is that our schools remain healthy and safe environment that provide a high-quality education to all students. Thank you for your continued professionalism and dedication to serving and protecting our students, families, and colleagues. In addition, we want to thank your district families for their ongoing support of your efforts and respectful treatment of one other.

Sincerely,



Dr. Ron Chapman
Yolo County Health Officer



Garth Lewis
Yolo County Superintendent of Schools