



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT  
OF EDUCATION**

**TONY THURMOND**  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC  
INSTRUCTION

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**CLARK BROOKE, Ed. S., SUPERINTENDENT**

California School for the Deaf • 39350 Gallaudet Drive, Fremont, CA 94538 • 510-248-4204

March 10, 2020

CSD families and community members,

There is an understandable and growing concern in the community about student health and safety given the COVID-19 situation. We want to remind you that the risk remains low.

California School for the Deaf (CSD) receives direction and guidance from the California Department of Education (CDE), Alameda County Office of Education (ACOE) and Alameda County Public Health Department (ACPHD) regarding all school or district actions.

We are taking preventive action by managing such events that will be occurring on and off campus. It has been decided that we will be cancelling any community use of our facilities, minimizing visitors, and avoid going out into the community for the time being.

- All events taking place at CSD are being cancelled until further notice:
  - Facility Usage Requests by outside organizations
  - Volunteer program and placements
  - Visitors are being restricted
  - Association of Families, Teachers and Counselors meetings
  - Community Advisory Council meetings
  - Staff Development that are being provided by external groups
  - Campus tours
  - Field trips
  - ASL Classes for families
  - Early Childhood Education Family Series Activities
- The following school events will be limited to participating students and their families:
  - Spelling Bee
  - d'Estrella Festival
  - School Play - Around the World in 80 Days
- Student activities during the weekends are being reviewed case by case. The Point of Contact for those activities will be in touch with families.

While we believe that school is often the safest place for students during a crisis like this, we would not inhibit your ability to do what you feel is in your child's best interest. Some children, or family members who live in the home, have underlying health conditions that put them at higher risk ([see CDC list here](#)).

Caregivers of children with underlying health conditions should consult with healthcare providers about whether their children should stay home. If you do choose to keep your child home, please communicate with the child's academic and residential department office so we can assist you in supporting your child with age-appropriate learning opportunities.

We also recognize that the evolving and somewhat unpredictable nature of the situation could lead us to school closure. In this case, such decision on whether to close CSD for a certain length will only come from the California Department of Education.

In light of this, we are asking you and your family to begin thinking about how they might handle a school closure that would last up to two weeks. This is not the case in at the moment, but given the possibility that things could change quickly and we need to start thinking ahead as a community.

We are including a general guidance that came from CDE:

*The California Department of Education has directed that illnesses related to this virus, or students who are held home with related parental concerns, will be considered excused and not generate truancy letters.*

*Your student will remain enrolled at their school until this health issue is resolved. Students with excused absences are allowed to complete their assignments and turn them in for credit. Student academic penalties shall not be imposed so long as these assignments are submitted in a timely manner according to the guidance provided by their teacher(s).*

**Student Attendance:**

- *Students returning from an affected area should self-quarantine for 14 days in accordance with CDC Information for Travel*
- *Any student who is sick or symptomatic should stay at home*
- *Students who are ill at school will be sent home, where they should remain for the duration of their illness*
- *Absences will be considered excused and not generate truancy letters, whether they are staying home due to illness or concern*
- *School work will be provided in the same manner as any other illness.*
- *The California Department of Education (CDE) does not allow districts to provide Independent Study contracts for students who are under quarantine or ill at home*
- *We do not have a stand-alone distance learning program at this time, however, the Teaching and Learning Division is in the process of compiling resources for teachers, students and families to use.*

**Preventative Measures:**

- *Use of shared items, such as food, drinks, pencils, pens and other school supplies, is discouraged*
- *Soap dispensers will be kept full*
- *Everyone is encouraged to wash their hands during the school day*
- *Everyone is encouraged to cover their mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve (not hands) when coughing or sneezing*
- *Everyone is encouraged to refrain from touching their eyes, nose and mouth*
- *Anyone should stay home when sick*

**Field trips and other school related events:**

- *Field trip decisions will be made on a case by case basis*
- *Field trips that are permitted are voluntary, and students who do not wish to attend will be allowed to opt out and will not be penalized academically or otherwise*
- *Field trip donations are generally not refundable*
- *Anyone who is sick or who is at higher risk for serious illness (see CDC's recommended list here) should avoid attending public gatherings*
- *Such schools may need to implement guidance from Alameda County Public Health Department (ACPHD) on short notice to cancel events*

You may also stay informed about this rapidly evolving situation by visiting the websites at the Alameda County Department of Public Health, California Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

I fully realize how difficult this might be on families but in the absence of easy answers or solutions, we have to start thinking ahead if circumstances change. I will be sending out updates as we progress through this challenging time.

Sincerely,



Clark Brooke, Ed.S.  
Superintendent  
California School for the Deaf, Fremont