



A DIVISION OF  
HEALTH CARE  
SERVICES AGENCY

March 27, 2020

All San Joaquin County Public and Private Schools  
Names and Addresses Attached

**Re: Orders of the Health Officer of the County of San Joaquin**

Dear San Joaquin County Public and Private Schools Superintendents and Principals:

I have become aware of an expressed desire and plan by some school districts within San Joaquin County to reopen their schools and return to normal operations as soon as April 6, 2020. While I appreciate the desire to return to normalcy, I am writing to inform you that, pursuant to the order issued March 26, 2020, by the Public Health Officer and Director of Emergency Services for the County of San Joaquin, all educational institutions in the County are to remain closed until the order is modified or rescinded. Exceptions to the general prohibition of public gatherings have been made only for schools to provide materials for distant learning, distribution of meals and childcare for essential critical infrastructure workers. (*See Order of March 26, 2020, Section 11.d.*) Exceptions have also been made for academies, training facilities and courses graduating students that comprise essential workforce for all identified critical sections. (*See State Public Health Officer's Designated List of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers - <https://covid19.ca.gov/img/EssentialCriticalInfrastructureWorkers.pdf> - at Pages 10-11.*)

Please be advised that, pursuant to several provisions of the law, including but not limited to, California Health & Safety Code Sections 101040, 101470, 101475, 120175, 120200, 120210, and 120215, California Penal Code Section 409.5 and Section 2501 of Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations, *the San Joaquin County Public Health Officer has jurisdiction over the entire County of San Joaquin.* The County Health Officer "may take any preventive measure that may be necessary to protect and preserve the public

health from any public health hazard during any ‘state of war emergency,’ ‘state of emergency,’ or ‘local emergency’ ... within his or her jurisdiction.” (See Cal. Health & Safety Code §101040.) Furthermore, “each health officer knowing or having reason to believe that any case of the diseases made reportable by regulation of the department, or any other contagious, infectious or communicable disease exists, or has recently existed, within the territory under his or her jurisdiction, shall take measures as may be necessary to prevent the spread of the disease or occurrence of additional cases.” (See Cal. Health & Safety Code §101040.)

As you are aware, on March 4, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom issued a Proclamation of a State Emergency. On March 12, 2020, the County Health Officer issued a Declaration of Local Health Emergency based on an imminent and proximate threat to public health from the introduction of novel COVID-19 in San Joaquin County. On March 17, 2020, the County Board of Supervisors issued a Resolution ratifying and extending the Declaration of Local Health Emergency due to COVID-19, and the Director of Emergency Services declared a Local Emergency in the County of San Joaquin regarding COVID-19. On March 24, 2020, the County Board of Supervisors issued a Resolution ratifying and extending the Local Emergency in the County of San Joaquin.

As a result of these local emergency proclamations, the County Health Officer has the authority to take any preventative measure that may be necessary to protect and preserve the public health over the County and all cities within the County. Accordingly, the County Health Officer has determined that such necessary preventative measures included the closure of “all businesses in the County including for profit, non-profit, or educational entities, regardless of the nature of the service, the function they perform, or its corporate or entity structure” except as specifically exempted. (See Order of March 26, 2020) This County Order was issued based on evidence of increasing transmission of COVID-19 (both within San Joaquin County and worldwide), scientific evidence regarding the most effective approach to slow transmission of communicable diseases

generally (and COVID-19 specifically), and best practices as currently known and available to protect the public from the risk of spread of or exposure to COVID-19. Likewise, this County Order was intended to reduce the likelihood of exposure to COVID-19, thereby slowing the spread of COVID-19 in communities worldwide.

In summary, the purpose of this letter is to remind you that school districts, charter schools and private schools have no independent authority to resume normal operations while the March 26, 2020 Order, remains in place. All schools/classrooms must remain closed. Additionally, please note that any staff remaining on campus must adhere to the “Social Distancing Requirements” identified in the order. For your convenience, copies of the March 26, 2020 Order, and the State Public Health Officer’s Designated List of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers are enclosed herein.

While I certainly recognize the difficulties that you and your institutions are facing as you transition to a new operating model, rest assured that you are not alone. State and local governments, public and private businesses, and educational institutions across the country are similarly faced with the urgent need to adapt and change as a result of this ongoing public health emergency. Nevertheless, the well-being of our community is of the utmost importance, and these arduous measures are necessary to preserve the public health.

I look forward to your cooperation and assistance in this matter. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,



Maggie Park, M.D.

San Joaquin County Public Health Officer

Attachment

## ATTACHMENT

First Name	Last Name	Title	District	Organization_School	General Email Address
Daniel	Moore	Superintendent	Banta Elementary School District	Banta Elementary School District	<a href="mailto:dmoore@bantasd.org">dmoore@bantasd.org</a>
Ron	Costa	Superintendent	Escalon Unified School District	Escalon Unified School Dist.	<a href="mailto:rcosta@escalonusd.org">rcosta@escalonusd.org</a>
James	Bridges	Superintendent	Jefferson Elementary School District	Jefferson Elementary School Dist.	<a href="mailto:jbridges@jsdtracy.com">jbridges@jsdtracy.com</a>
Kirk	Nicholas	Superintendent	Lammersville Joint Unified School District	Lammersville Joint Unified School District	<a href="mailto:knicholas@lammersvilleusd.net">knicholas@lammersvilleusd.net</a>
Kelly	Dextraze	Superintendent	Lincoln Unified School District	Lincoln Unified School District	<a href="mailto:kdextraze@lusd.net">kdextraze@lusd.net</a>
Rick	Hall	Superintendent	Linden Unified School District	Linden Unified School District	<a href="mailto:rihall@lindenusd.com">rihall@lindenusd.com</a>
Dr. Cathy	Nichols-Washer	Superintendent	Lodi Unified School District	Lodi Unified School District	<a href="mailto:cwasher@lodiused.net">cwasher@lodiused.net</a>
Dr. Clark	Burke	Superintendent	Manteca Unified School District	Manteca Unified School Dist.	<a href="mailto:cburke@musd.net">cburke@musd.net</a>
Janet	Stemler	Superintendent/Principal	New Hope Elementary School District	New Hope Elementary School District	<a href="mailto:jstemler@nhesd.net">jstemler@nhesd.net</a>
David	Thoming	Superintendent	New Jerusalem Elem School District	New Jerusalem Elem School Dist.	<a href="mailto:dthoming@njes.net">dthoming@njes.net</a>
Beverly	Boone	Superintendent/Principal	Oak View Union Elem School District	Oak View Union Elem School Dist.	<a href="mailto:bboone@myoakview.com">bboone@myoakview.com</a>
Dr. Ziggy	Robeson	Superintendent	Ripon Unified School District	Ripon Unified School District	<a href="mailto:zroberson@riponusd.net">zroberson@riponusd.net</a>
Dr. Omid	Pourzanjani	Superintendent/President	San Joaquin Delta College	San Joaquin Delta College	<a href="mailto:omid.pourzanjani@deltacollege.edu">omid.pourzanjani@deltacollege.edu</a>
Dr. John	Deasy	Superintendent	Stockton Unified School District	Stockton Unified School Dist.	<a href="mailto:jdeasy@stocktonusd.net">jdeasy@stocktonusd.net</a>
Brian	Stephens	Superintendent	Tracy Unified School District	Tracy Unified School District	<a href="mailto:bstephens@tusd.net">bstephens@tusd.net</a>