

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Regarding COVID-19 (coronavirus) **Updated March 14, 2020**

Q). Are schools closed because of the coronavirus (COVID-19)?

A). Yes, on March 13, following the declaration of a national emergency by our President, Fresno Unified made the extremely difficult decision to close all schools for students beginning Monday, March 16th through April 13th, which is when our district is regularly scheduled to return from spring break. This includes all early learning and adult school activities as well. We are optimistic that we will resume classroom instruction after spring break, but we will continue to evaluate what is best for our kids and community

During this time of school closures, we highly recommend that students and families continue to practice health and safety measures such as handwashing and social distancing. This school closure is put in place to help mitigate the spread of this virus and if our students and families congregate in groups, this can counteract these social distancing measures.

Fresno Unified continues to encourage our community to take common-sense precautions to prevent the spread of infectious germs:

- If you are sick, stay home.
- Avoid close contact with those who are already sick.
- Cover your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing with a tissue or the crook of your arm.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water. If you don't have access to soap and water, hand sanitizer with an alcohol content of 60% or more is a great alternative
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.

Q) Will students still have access to meals while schools are closed?

A). Yes, Monday (3/16/20) and Tuesday (3/17/20) breakfast and lunch will be provided at all school sites at their regularly scheduled times. Starting Wednesday (3/18/20) we anticipate a more streamlined meal distribution system and we will communicate that in the following days.

Meals will be available on a grab-and-go basis. Students can get a meal from any Fresno Unified school; they do not need to go to their school of enrollment.

Q). My student has medicine at school. How do I retrieve it?

A) On Monday, March 16 and Tuesday, March 17 during regularly scheduled school hours, all families will be able to retrieve their student's medication(s) stored at the school site.

Q) What instructional options are available to students while schools are closed?

A) We know understand the loss that instructional time has on our students' learning. We are working on optional educational resources to serve students during this unprecedented time. We will have further information in the coming days.

Q). With schools closed who can I call with questions?

A) The District has established a call center to field parent and employee calls while schools are closed. Currently, the call center is open daily from 8:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.. The website Fresnounified.org also provides pertinent resources.

Q). What else can we do to reduce the spread of COVID-19 while schools are closed?

A). During this time of school closures, we want to remind students and families to continue to employ health and safety measures such as handwashing and social distancing. This school closure is put in place to help mitigate the spread of this virus and if our students and families congregate in groups this can counteract these social distancing measures.

Q) Will the District's health clinics be opened while schools are closed?

A) Yes. The school-based health clinics at Gaston Middle School will be opened to the community, while the newly opened clinic at Addams Elementary will be opened to students at Addams. Our Clinic at Tioga Middle school will also be open.

Q) Is staff working while schools are closed?

A) We expect to assess work schedules from week to week. Some of our departments with critical functions will need essential staff to report to work. In the first week of school closures (March 16-20), we are asking for the following staff to report to their work sites as regularly scheduled.

- all management staff, including supervisory
- food services employees

- custodians
- human resources
- fiscal, including benefits
- health services staff will **only** report to their regularly scheduled sites on Monday, March 16 and Tuesday, March 17

All permanently employed staff who are not required to come into work at this time are remaining in paid status and on-call for needs that may arise.

We all acknowledge this is a very trying time for our community and we have had many staff members reach out to find out how they can help. If you are not in a position listed above, you are healthy, and you would like to help at your school site, please contact your principal. This is a great opportunity to provide service for and on behalf of Fresno.

We will provide weekly messaging regarding work schedules every Friday for the week to follow. Please stay in contact with your supervisors and watch for Superintendent Nelson's weekly Friday message for updates.

Q). Where can we go for more information around COVID-19?

A). [CDC](#), [California Department of Public Health](#), and [Fresno County Department of Public Health](#) websites are all great resources for up to date facts about COVID- 19. You can also find information on our district website at fresnounified.org.