



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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020-029: San Joaquin County Schools Recommendation

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County Superintendent of Schools Announces Recommendation to Prevent Spread of COVID-19

After careful consideration and consultation with San Joaquin County Public Health Services, the San Joaquin County Superintendent of Schools and school districts in San Joaquin County have made the decision to temporarily close schools, effective Monday, March 16, in response to the novel coronavirus.

Superintendent James Mousalimas issued the following statement:

"News of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) and its spread across the country and the region has been a cause of great concern. In San Joaquin County, the concern continued to grow this week with the confirmation of six cases of COVID-19, which show evidence of community transmission of the virus in our county. After long and careful deliberation, it is my recommendation that all schools in San Joaquin County close temporarily for three weeks, effective Monday, March 16.

"Schools are an essential service and crucial to our communities. The decision to recommend school closure was not taken lightly. While children have not been shown to be a high-risk group for the virus, the temporary closure of schools may help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in San Joaquin County and help protect our most vulnerable populations."

Mousalimas consulted with superintendents from San Joaquin County's 14 school districts and San Joaquin County Public Health Services before making this recommendation. Each district has the authority to make a decision about closing that is best for their students and families in their district.

It is anticipated that schools will reopen on April 6, 2020. Updates will be posted on <https://sjcoe.org/healthsafety/>.

About the San Joaquin County Office of Education:

San Joaquin County Office of Education (SJCOE) provides educational leadership, resources, and services to support schools throughout the county. With its highly regarded programs, innovative staff, and community partnerships, SJCOE ensures that every student in San Joaquin County has the opportunity of a quality education. For more information, visit www.sjcoe.org.