

FROM: Stanislaus County Office of Education and the Stanislaus County Department of Public Health

TO: County District Superintendents
Charter School Administrators
Local Education Departments

DATE ISSUED: **COVID-19 Update March 12 at 2:00 p.m.**

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 16, 2020

The following information on Mass Gathering guidance is intended to be the most recent statewide guidance from the California Department of Public Health regarding coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

To protect public health and slow the rate of transmission of COVID-19 the California Department of Public Health finds the following gatherings to be cancelled or postponed across the State of California through the remainder of the month of March.

- 1) Day-to day classroom activities should remain in place.
- 2) Non-essential school gatherings of over 250 people should be postponed or canceled across the state until at least the end of March. **Smaller events can proceed only if the organizers can implement social distancing of 6 feet per person.** Gatherings of individuals who are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 should be limited to no more than 10 people, while also following social distancing guidelines.
- 3) Gatherings that do not meet the criteria should only be conducted when they are essential, i.e., if the activity is essential and could not be postponed or achieved without gathering, meaning that some other means of communication could not be used to conduct the essential function.
- 4) Recommendation on Social Distancing:

The Stanislaus County Public Health Services Agency and Stanislaus County Office of Education recommends that schools begin practicing "social distancing" when it comes to large events and assemblies. This means making every attempt to minimize large group activities where students, staff, families, or community members are gathered in one place. Recommendations include:

- Student meals should be eaten in classrooms or outdoors instead of cafeterias
- Physical Education and recess should be staggered such that smaller numbers of students are gathered together in one location
- Assemblies or group activities, **less than 250 persons**, should be moved to a large room or outdoors if possible to allow attendees to achieve the recommended 6 feet of social distancing – **applicable to school sporting events**
- If a larger space is not available, staggering group activities or assemblies if possible to minimize the number of people gathered in one area
- Postponing large events and assemblies, when appropriate
- Follow regular hygiene guidelines
- **Regular classroom activities should continue**