



PRESS RELEASE

To: Media
From: Judy Flores, Shasta County Superintendent of Schools
Re: Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Meeting
Date: March 12, 2020

I invited Dr. Karen Ramstrom, Shasta County's Public Health Officer, and Brandy Isola, the Branch Director for Shasta County Public Health to a meeting held on Thursday, March 12, 2020, with school administrators and school nurses. The focus of the meeting was on COVID-19 and implications for schools, both students and staff.

Dr. Ramstrom provided helpful background on COVID-19 and what is happening within the county to prepare, including what schools can do now. The best advice at this point is if students are running a fever, coughing, or sneezing, to have them stay home so that they are not spreading any germs with others at school. Also, to wash hands with soap and water frequently.

We discussed the state guidance that came out on March 7th (linked [here](#)) so that school and district leaders would understand at what point schools would be closed. Any school closures will be discussed and agreed upon with Shasta County Public Health and the local school district (or charter school).

We also received guidance late yesterday (linked [here](#)) regarding non-essential gatherings. Discussion took place on this topic as well. Types of activities we agreed to fall into this category are field trips, sporting events (especially those that are indoor and not allowing for 6' of social distancing), and school club competitions. These non-essential gatherings will either be postponed until after April 10 or canceled.

Our goal is to keep schools open so that our students are continuing to learn and grow. We also know how critical it is for working families to have students in school. We truly want to work together to make sure students and school staff are kept healthy and that will take each one of us choosing to stay home if we are not healthy.

We have a great working relationship with Public Health and my goal is to keep clear lines of communication open between Public Health and our local school districts, charter schools, school nurses, and private schools. We have email groups established and plan for future online meetings as new information is made available.

MISSION: To be leaders in educational excellence, offering support to schools and community to ensure Shasta County students receive a quality education preparing them for high school graduation and success in career and college.

