

Los Banos Unified School District
Frequently Asked Questions
(FAQ)
Updated March 24, 2020

Q: Why are schools in Los Banos Unified School District (LBUSD) closed? A: Out of abundance of caution, and in consultation with local public health officials, all school districts in Merced County will be closed in order to curb the potential transmission of the coronavirus (COVID-19).

Q: How long will our schools be closed? A: All LBUSD schools are closed as of March 19, 2020. At this point, we are planning for students to return to school on Monday, April 20, 2020.

Q: What are the work related expectations of classified and certificated staff during the school closure? A: Staff members should be available to report to LBUSD during their regular work hours. The school closure is considered a state of emergency and could warrant the need for District staff to report to work.

Q: Do I have to use my leave time (sick leave, vacation, comp time, etc.) to cover the dates the District will be closed? A: No. The hours that schools within the District are closed **will not** be deducted from employees' leave balances.

Q: What happens to our spring break? A: Spring Break for LBUSD is scheduled for March 23-27, 2020 and remains the designated Spring Break for the District.

Q: Will staff continue to get paid/receive benefit coverage during the school closure? A: LBUSD employees will continue to be paid and health benefit coverage will not be affected by the closure of our schools.

Q: If I am in one of the high risk groups identified by Governor Newsom (pregnant, over the age of 65 and/or have a compromised immune system), do I have to follow the Governor's directive(s) and remain at home/return home even though school is in session? A: Yes. The Human Resources Department is compiling a list of all employees who are 65 years of age and older and will need to comply with the Governor's Directive to remain at home/not report to work, until the directive is retracted.

Q: Can athletics or other school activities take place during school closures? A: No. All athletics, including practices and games, are cancelled while schools are closed. All other activities and performances are also cancelled while schools are closed.

Q: What is social distancing? A: From Johns Hopkins University: "Social distancing is a public health practice that aims to prevent sick people from coming in close contact with healthy people in order to reduce opportunities for disease transmission. It can include large-scale measures like canceling group events or

closing public spaces, as well as individual decisions such as avoiding crowds. With COVID-19, the goal of social distancing right now is to slow down the outbreak in order to reduce the chance of infection among high-risk populations and to reduce the burden on health care systems and workers.”

Social distancing has been identified as a way to curb the potential transmission of COVID-19. In order for the public health benefits of school closures to be realized, students and staff should stay away from congregating in large groups.

Q: Are there online learning options for students? A: LBUSD wants our staff and families to make plans for their health and safety. Our team will explore different plans for possible extended learning activities. The CDE has asked districts to develop plans for distance learning that includes both short and long-term goals, plans to assist teachers in analyzing course sequences to meet state standards, provide a continuum of delivery options, and plan for how teachers will engage with one another to calibrate and exchange effective teaching practices. For the short-term goals, we shared online resources for students and families to use for enrichment and learning during the initial school closure. Our team is working on developing long-term plans to meet the requirements of the CDE to provide distance learning options for students in case the school closure is extended. *(Updated 3/24/2020)*

Q: Will breakfast/lunch be served in the school cafeterias at each site during the school closure? A: Meals will be served at five sites during the school closure. Fliers advertising which sites will be serving meals to students and the times meals will be served were distributed to site principals.

Q: Will the school year be extended because of the closures? A: As of this moment, we do not anticipate having to make up any school days at the end of the school year. Based on guidance in Governor Newsom’s Executive Order on March 13, the requirement for a minimum number of school days has been suspended.

Q: Will the school district lose funding because of the closures? A: Based on guidance in Governor Newsom’s Executive Order on March 13, as of today we do not anticipate losing funding because of school closures due to the COVID-19 situation.

Q: Will state testing be postponed? A: The U.S. Department of Education has approved waivers that will allow states suspend testing for the current school year. Governor Newsom issued an executive order to waive, pending approval, this year’s statewide testing for all CA k-12 students. The California Department of Education (CDE) is doing the following:

- Suspending all CAASPP testing
- Suspending Summative ELPAC testing
- Placing the Physical Fitness test on hold until students return to school
- Canceling the March California High School Proficiency Examination
- Placing high school equivalency testing on hold until testing centers are reopened *(Updated 3/24/2020)*

Q: Will AP testing and/or SAT testing be postponed? A: The College Board, which owns the SAT,

announced that it has canceled its exam scheduled for May 2. The College Board will offer free remote learning resources and a home testing option for all students interested in taking AP exams this year. Students will have the opportunity to take a 45-minute online free-response exam at home. To accommodate students who may wish to take the exam right away and those who may wish more time to study, there will be 2 different testing dates for each AP subject. The tests will only cover the material that most AP classes should have covered by March. More details will be available by April 3.

<https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/about-ap/news-changes/coronavirus-update> (Updated 3/24/2020)

Q: Are there additional resources/articles that I can access to learn more about COVID-19? A: It is important to ensure that any information related to the COVID-19 virus is factual and from a reputable source. We will start to compile a variety of informational resources from trusted sources and link those to this FAQ document that will be posted on the District's website.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention www.cdc.gov
U.S. Department of Education www.ed.gov

Q: Does preschool fall under the same guidelines as certificated teachers? A: Yes. Preschool teachers will need to prepare their classrooms for cleaning/disinfecting during the school closures. Once their personal items are removed from their desk and all surfaces are cleared so they can be wiped, the preschool teachers need to notify an administrator who will check off the room. Preschool teachers can leave once this is complete and signed off by the site administrator. No preschool teacher can return to campus once the cleaning process begins on March 30th.

Q: Will teachers have to follow the end of the year procedures? A: No. They simply need to clean off the surfaces in their classrooms for cleaning/disinfecting purposes. All personal items need to be removed from the teacher's desk.

Q: What should do teachers do if none of their students show up? A: Teachers can start preparing their classrooms for the cleaning/disinfecting process.

Q: Will staff be allowed back before students to organize/prepare their classrooms for the return of the students? A: No. Teachers will have time during the school closure to prepare lessons from home, but no one is allowed back into the classrooms once they have been cleaned and disinfected. The rooms will be sealed until the teachers and students return on April 20, 2020.

Q: Will ipads also be cleaned? A: Yes. All computer devices will be cleaned.

Q: Teachers have school ipads. Can they take those home or will they need to be cleaned? A: Teachers can take the devices checked out to them home, since they are the only ones who touch their devices.

Q: Can admin and teachers be added to the auto dialer that parents receive? A: Yes. However, the primary form of communication to staff and administrators during the school

closures will be through district email. It is expected that all employees check their district email frequently during this time.

Q: Do library books need to be cleaned? A: According to medical professionals the Coronavirus lives for a maximum of three days. Our schools will be closed for over a week which means that any live virus will be dead upon the return of staff and students. This eliminates the need to clean any books in the library or the classrooms.

Q: Why do child nutrition workers have to serve meals during the school closures? A: The Executive Order issued by Governor Newsom recognized the importance of child nutrition services to the students in our schools. Many of our students would not have adequate or nutritious meals if it weren't for the breakfast and lunch they receive at school. As a result, the Governor authorized school closures throughout California, but declared that during the period of closure school meals would be served in non-congregate settings in a manner that protects the safety of both students and school personnel.

Q: If I don't finish getting my classroom ready for cleaning/disinfecting, can I come over Spring Break to finish? A: The two days following the school closures, Thursday, March 19th and Friday, March 20th are to be used by teachers to finish preparing their classrooms for the cleaning/disinfecting that will start on Monday, March 30th.

Q: What do I do if I am symptomatic or test positive for the Coronavirus during the next 14 days (between March 19 – April 1)? A: Contact the site principal, Supervisor, Director, etc. who will contact Yolanda Cork-Anthony, Director Special Education and Student Services and/or Allison Aguilar, District/School Nurse. Allison will interview the employee and determine whether the case needs to be reported to the Merced County Department of Public Health.