

# WOODLAND JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

"Excellence for All"

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Tom Pritchard, Superintendent

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March 20, 2020

Dear WJUSD Community,

This past week, California Governor Gavin Newsom outlined important updates, including a statewide shelter-in-place order, and assured Californians that the State will continue to provide guidance and support. An important part of his statement included the estimation that the duration of school closures may last longer than initially intended, and that schools may remain closed into summer.

This order limits activity, travel, and business functions to only the most essential needs and is intended to slow the spread of novel coronavirus (COVID-19), protect those most vulnerable to the disease, and preserve local healthcare capacity.

### **Sheltering in Place Means Staying Home**

The order can be seen at by clicking the following link: <https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/3.19.20-EO-N-33-20-COVID-19-HEALTH-ORDER-03.19.2020-signed.pdf>

Basically, the order means that all individuals are ordered to shelter at their place of residence. The order does identify reasons such as accessing healthcare, going to the store to obtain food, and exercising outside as appropriate activities as long as social distancing guidelines are being followed.

While school closures provide far more unstructured time for children at home, routines of the day may become more normalized over the next few days and weeks. That being said, we understand the challenges families are facing. Please be assured that WJUSD is fully focused on preparing learning resources for students and on essential school operations: distributing food to families that need it, preparing to deploy computers to families in need and Wi-Fi hotspots for families who qualify, continuing our preparations related to distance learning, continuing our communications with our families and staff, and ensuring that regular employees are paid.

### **1. Grab and Go Meals Will Continue Even During the Shelter-in-Place Order**

WJUSD is pleased to continue to provide breakfast and lunch to all school-age children age 18 and under. You do not need to be a WJUSD student to receive a meal. This is an essential function for our community. We are serving Grab and Go meals from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Monday - Friday. Anyone in the family can pick up the meals - no ID is required. Sites currently serving meals are:

- ✓ Gibson Elementary
- ✓ Prairie Elementary
- ✓ Sci-Tech Charter
- ✓ Tafoya Elementary

- ✓ Douglass Middle School
- ✓ Lee Middle School
- ✓ Pioneer High School
- ✓ Woodland High School
- ✓ Cache Creek High School

We will continue to post updates on the District's Food and Nutrition Services website (<https://www.wjUSD.org/Departments/Food-and-Nutrition-Services/index.html>). Please continue to visit that page for future updates.

## 2. Learning Resources for Students

We are hard at work developing learning resources to support students while schools are closed and are developing a multi-phased approach. Below is an *estimated outline* of the effort we are putting together.

### PHASE I – Planning (March 16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>) Voluntary Enrichment and Learning Opportunity (opportunities available after 4:00 PM on Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup>)

- TK-6<sup>th</sup> Grade: Providing voluntary enrichment and learning opportunity resources online and through packets
- 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade: Providing voluntary online enrichment and learning resources
- Provide resources to parents
- Update our website for resources
- Begin planning for distance learning and special education support

### PHASE II (March 20-April 10<sup>th</sup>) Preparing for Distance Learning

- Develop distance learning platform/design
- Develop plan for continued counseling services
- Develop Special Education Program accommodations
- Distribute needed technology support
- Provide Staff Development
- Grade Level Collaboration
- Develop Curriculum

*NOTE: April 11<sup>th</sup> through April 19<sup>th</sup> is our spring break*

### PHASE III (April 20<sup>th</sup> thru ???) Teacher Lead Distance Learning

- Teacher guided distance learning

## 3. Daycare

The Woodland Joint Unified School District did not provide daycare prior to this crisis and we have no plans or capacity to provide daycare now. We are working with our three Child Development Centers (CDC) to let them know they can continue to provide their services in their facilities at Tafoya, Prairie, and Gibson.

## 4. Pay for Staff

This is an evolving topic. Leanee Medina Estrada is meeting with our bargaining units daily to address issues and problems associated with this ongoing crisis.

### **What This Means for Our School District**

Each day, we have been doing our best to address a very fluid crisis and keep families and staff up to date. Once we received the Shelter-in-Place Order for Yolo County, I asked our District Office staff to complete essential tasks and prepare to close our offices. Starting Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, the District office will be closed to the public and all school sites will be closed. If you need to reach a school site or District Office staff, please use the phone number for that site or department and/or email the person you are looking to contact directly. Email communication is the preferred communication method and staff will respond when possible.

### **Looking Forward (as long as we are 6 feet apart!)**

We are grateful for the continued support and suggested resources that our community continues to share. There has been a growing number of offers from community members expressing desire to do whatever they can to support our students and families. At this time, WJUSD is not in need of volunteers for our continued operational work, but we encourage you to support efforts happening throughout our community to support one another.

With schools and facilities closed, WJUSD asks that you please be vigilant and report any unusual activity you may see on campuses to the Woodland Police Department at 530-666-2411. We need the support of our whole community to protect our sites.

I can't underscore enough how important it is for each of us to do our part to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Social Distancing doesn't mean we can't stay connected to our friends, schools, community, and family. As this period continues and evolves, it will be even more important to find ways to strengthen connections with each other. Our District will continue to keep you informed by sharing news through periodic messages, and other channels of communications. Let's continue to stay connected as we adapt and navigate the coming weeks and months ahead.

### **Please Monitor our Website and Social Media for Updates**

For the latest information, please monitor our website and social media at:

WJUSD website: <https://www.wjusd.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WoodlandCaSchools/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/WoodlandSchools>

Instagram: [https://www.instagram.com/woodland\\_schools/](https://www.instagram.com/woodland_schools/)

Thank you,



Tom Pritchard  
WJUSD Superintendent