

Kerman Unified's latest update on the COVID-19 virus:

March 13, 2020 9:00am

This is an update to our community from Kerman Unified School District regarding the District's response to the statewide directive to cancel **non-essential** gatherings of more than 250 people or any large events where we cannot meet the intent of the Governor's directive on social distancing. That is, if the activity is both an essential function and could not be postponed or achieved without gathering in person (meaning that some other means of communication could not be used to conduct essential functions). We are defining **essential functions** as anything that is essential to the operation of a school site, student learning and/or governance of our district. As indicated in this directive, schools will remain open. Most importantly, we will continue to be in close and frequent communication with Fresno County's Public Health Department and follow their best practices, act calmly and thoughtfully, and keep the best interest of our students and staff at the forefront. With numerous events on our campuses each day, the following steps have been taken to follow the Governor's directive and to continue to reflect recommended best practices for schools.

School remains in session.

Our school-age population remains at a low risk for contracting COVID-19. We will continue our daily cleaning and disinfecting routines, encourage and remind students of good hand hygiene and proper procedures to cover coughs and sneezes, etc. It is important for us to recognize the low risk to students and the need to carry on critical functions, such as classroom learning. What is currently proven about the COVID-19 virus is that it presents a low risk to students and healthy adults and that holding school is the right choice, at this time.

Through Monday, April 13, 2020 all activities, competitions, and events have been postponed.

Decisions about possible rescheduling will be made as more information and guidance becomes available. While student-aged individuals and healthy adults are at low risk in this outbreak, we recognize that the elderly or those with underlying health conditions may attend non-essential community events held by Kerman Unified.

A partial list of these POSTPONEMENTS through April 13, 2020 include:

- All school and club Athletic competitions, all Open House Events and Parent Conferences
- All visual and performing arts music festivals, concerts or plays
- All student rallies, assemblies, and dances
- Fundraising dinners and events held by school booster groups
- The SSC, ELAC, DELAC, LCAP, and other large parent and community meetings
- Outside organizations requesting to use Kerman Unified facilities will be determined according to the Governor's directive
- All student field trips and staff conferences to high risk areas

Normal school co-curricular practices will still be permitted. For more information about specific site events, please check the district website.

The decision to take these steps was difficult but made with heartfelt consideration of the health and safety of our students, staff and community. We are saddened that some of the impacted events may not be able to be rescheduled before the end of the school year. We will be re-evaluating events currently scheduled for after Spring Break and updating our community according to guidelines provided by the State of California and Fresno County Health Department. Individual coaches and Administrators will provide additional information to families about specific events and activities.