



City and County of San Francisco
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Mayor

San Francisco Department of Public Health

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Director of Health

DPH Statement on SFUSD Closure Announcement

March 12, 2020

The San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) was informed today by the Board of Education that San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) intends to close all schools for a three-week period.

We respect the SFUSD decision and understand that they have many communities and constituents to consider. Principally, DPH and the SFUSD want the same thing: to keep our community's children, families and workers safe.

We know that coronavirus is circulating in our community and our region, and the situation is rapidly evolving. Our goal is to decrease how rapidly the virus is spreading and to protect vulnerable populations.

We have been in discussions with other Bay Area health departments about taking a regional approach with our schools. Especially in the Bay Area, where many people live their lives in more than one county, school closures could potentially be part of a coordinated approach that restricts social contact to slow the spread of the virus. We will continue these consultations and to follow CDC and state health department guidelines.

We advise any school that chooses to close to give families enough time to make arrangements for childcare during closure and to try to avoid leaving children with older relatives, and those with chronic medical conditions and immune suppression, who are more vulnerable to the impact of the virus. We encourage schools that close to use the time to plan, prepare and train staff on how to educate students on precautions and the facts of the coronavirus. An informed community is a safer community.

As always, if there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 at a school, we will work with the school and the district to determine the best measures including potential school closure.

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