



A Tradition of Stewardship  
A Commitment to Service

Health & Human Services Agency  
Public Health Division

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Jennifer Yasumoto  
Agency Director

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Dear Administrators, Teachers, Staff and Parents.

With the decision by NVUSD to close schools today, Napa County Public Health would like to provide additional information to families. While Napa County Public Health is not ordering school closures, we support the administrative staff at NVUSD to make the best decision for the safety and wellbeing of their students and faculty.

**With students no longer in school, it will be critical that families and their students follow social distancing guidelines in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our community.** School closures are not effective if students continue to gather in large numbers outside of school. While these actions cause disruption, making these changes for a limited period of time will slow the spread of disease, save lives, and ensure our healthcare system can continue to function.

For school dismissals to be an effective tool, students and their families must follow social distancing and hygiene guidelines. These include:

- Not holding or attending gatherings of more than 250 people
- Maintaining a distance of 6 feet per person during smaller gatherings
- Avoiding direct physical contact (e.g. hugging, shaking hands, etc) to the extent possible
- Regularly washing hands or using a hand sanitizer with 60% or more alcohol
- Covering coughs and sneezes with your elbow, or using a tissue and then throwing it away
- Avoiding close contact with people who are sick and staying home if you become sick

Concern about the current situation may be making children and their families anxious. There are guidelines for talking to children about COVID-19 [here](#). Napa County Public Health will keep schools and our other community partners updated as we learn more about this developing situation – <https://www.countyofnapa.org/Coronavirus> is a frequently updated source of local information.

Sincerely,

Karen Relucio, MD  
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Public Health Officer  
Napa County Health and Human Services  
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