



Across the country labor, educators, community and faith based-organizations are banding together to take a stand for the most vulnerable children and families that will be heavily impacted by the current Covid-19 pandemic. We want to make sure that we stop the spread of the virus by providing poor, Black, Brown, immigrant and unsheltered communities the latest medical information and access to life saving resources that will keep our communities healthy and safe.

In addition to closing schools, providing food pick-ups, and paying all school workers regular wages during the closures, we urge you to:

- Provide school communities with information on eligibility and access to free testing for COVID-19.
- Create continuity plans for teaching and learning using technology – providing tablets to students who don't have access to one, and ensure there are platforms for teachers to post lessons and teaching videos for students.
- Help mitigate the potential negative impact to unhoused students and families by working with city agencies and shelters
- Work with city and county agencies to provide a stipend to families who lose pay from the closures.
- Support an Oakland moratorium on evictions during the COVID-19 pandemic so that students and their families are not left unhoused during this crisis.
- Provide school personnel the appropriate resources and materials to deep clean all of our schools.
- Advocate for Oakland not to lose any monies that are attached to our daily attendance during the emergency shut down.
- Have department of health train school staff on health, safety, and prevention protocols
- No negative consequences for students or school sites as a result of COVID-19 absences or missed standardized tests.

Please email our superintendent at: kyla.johnson@ousd.org

On March 10th the Alameda County Public Health Department updated their guidance *for Mass gatherings recommending that gatherings of more than 1000 participants be postponed.*

Yesterday, March 11th *The City of Oakland declared a local emergency in response to the rapidly evolving public health crisis and issued an order to cancel all large events in city-owned facilities recommending that organizations and businesses do the same.*

At Governor Newsom's press conference on March 12th, *state public health experts announce that gatherings with 250 people or more should be rescheduled or canceled and smaller gatherings can proceed if organizers implement a 6 feet of social distancing protocol.* As a result the San Francisco Unified School District and West Contra Costa Unified School District both announced (and Berkeley Unified will follow) that they will be closing schools for three weeks and putting in safeguards to ensure students have access to free meals and access to remote learning.

The Justice for Oakland Students Coalition urges OUSD to push the County Public Health Department, empowered to order the closing of schools to adhere to the guidance of state public health experts and shut down all Oakland schools for the protection of students, families, school personnel and our community at large.

We demand that you act swiftly to put a plan in place that secures the health and safety of our school communities without waiting for a single case of the virus to emerge in order to take preventive action. Demonstrate your leadership in an all hands-on deck manner working across state, county and city agencies to ensure that there is a comprehensive plan for Oakland students, families, staff and teachers that prioritizes the most vulnerable students and families in our schools.