



March 27, 2020 ~ 9:00 AM

Kings County Community:

Earlier this month, Kings County school district superintendents, with the support of their boards of trustees and in consultation with the local public health department, made the decision to temporarily close our schools due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Since then, we have remained in constant contact with one another, monitoring local, state and national announcements that affect our schools. During the closures, we have focused on providing students with meals, educational enrichment opportunities, and planning for distance learning. We initially planned to resume classroom instruction in April, promising to continually evaluate the situation.

As leaders, we are charged with doing everything we can to respond to the declared state and national emergency. We heed the governor’s recent “shelter in place” order and the sustained guidance to practice social distancing.

Dr. Milton Teske, Health Officer for the Kings County Department of Public Health, advises that our community needs to continue to focus on *containment*, and an important part of that effort is keeping school facilities closed. Looking ahead, we can identify criteria that would need to be met before school resumes normally. These include the lifting of the statewide “shelter in place” order and the removal of the guidelines for social distancing and restrictions on social gathering.

Given these current circumstances, we have come to a collective decision that the safety of our families and our community outweigh all other considerations. We recognize the need to extend the closure of our physical sites until May 1, 2020. Our focus will be on providing meals to our students and education through distance learning. We will continue to evaluate the ever-changing circumstances, remaining hopeful classroom based instruction will resume on May 4, 2020.

Parents should contact their local district offices or school sites for specific information related to their schools. Please follow the direction and guidance from your school administrators regarding measures they are taking for the benefit of all.

Thank you for your support and understanding in our efforts to keep our communities safe.

Sincerely,

The Superintendents of Kings County:

Xavier Pina
Armona Union Elementary School District

Tom Addington
Central Union Elementary School District

Rich Merlo
Corcoran Unified School District

Joy Gabler
Hanford Elementary School District

Victor Rosa
Hanford Joint Union High School District

Charlotte Hines
Island Union Elementary School District

Todd Barlow
Kings County Office of Education

Cathlene Anderson
Kings River Hardwick School District

Robin Jones
Kit Carson Union Elementary School District

Cindi Marshall
Lakeside Union Elementary School District

Cheryl Hunt
Lemoore Elementary School District

Debbie Muro
Lemoore Union High School District

Paul VanLoon
Pioneer Union Elementary School District

David East
Reef-Sunset Unified School District

