



# COVINA-VALLEY

UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

**District Superintendent**  
Richard M. Sheehan, Ed.D.

**Board of Education**  
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March 20, 2020

Dear Covina-Valley USD Families,

The impacts of the coronavirus are touching every aspect of our lives and forcing all of us to find creative ways to adapt to this unprecedented situation. We know the disruption in normal school operations has created many issues and uncertainties for you and your families, from childcare and meals to graduation plans and college preparation. In this letter, we will answer some of your most pressing questions related to these concerns as best as we can at this time.

Please be advised, the information provided below may be subject to change as we receive further guidance from State and County officials.

## **When will school reopen?**

In coordination with the Los Angeles County Office of Education, the Los Angeles County Superintendent's Office, and other Los Angeles County school districts, the Covina-Valley Unified School District will keep our schools closed through at least Monday, May 4, 2020. Our new target date to reopen is Tuesday, May 5, 2020. As you know, things are changing daily, so there is the potential that the closures could be extended beyond May 4. On March 17, 2020, California Governor Gavin Newsom advised parents to prepare for the possibility that schools may be closed through the summer break. While that could indeed happen, we remain hopeful that conditions will improve enough to allow us to reopen before the end of the school year.

Are school sites and the District office open, and how can I get updated information?

Although schools and the District offices will be closed to students until May 5, 2020, we will have a limited number of staff members available who can address the needs of our students and families remotely. For updated information, please visit the [C-VUSD School Closure and COVID-19 website](#) for up-to-date information about our temporary school closures. On this page, you will find a form that you can use to request Technology Help. If you submit the form, the technology staff will contact you and provide assistance.

## **Will graduation ceremonies be held?**

Like all of you, we want nothing more than to honor our students for their accomplishments. The thought of graduation ceremonies being canceled is heartbreaking, and we will do all we can to make them happen. At this time, we have not canceled or postponed our graduation ceremonies. In the event that the current public health concerns continue, we will explore future dates to recognize our students for their achievements.

### **Will distance learning be provided for students at home?**

We are currently providing distance learning for our students. Prior to the closure, our staff began the coordination and planning to provide high-quality distance learning with equitable access for all students, including those with special needs. Being mindful of the current situation, our teachers are flexible with assignments and submission dates. Our teachers continue to adapt to this new model of providing instruction.

### **What if my child does not have a Chromebook or other materials he or she needs?**

In response to the extended closure, each school has developed a plan to make resources available to students using both Google Classroom and offline (paper packet). To date, over 11,000 Chromebooks or laptops have been checked out to students District-wide. If your child did not receive a Chromebook, please visit the [C-VUSD School Closure and COVID-19 website](#) and use the Technology Help form to request a laptop or Chromebook. Technology staff will contact you and schedule a time for pick-up. If your student's device stops working, you can use the same Technology Help form and Technology Staff will contact you and provide assistance. If you do not have internet access at home, you can apply for temporary free wifi through Charter Communications [at this link](#), or you can use the paper packets provided at meal distribution sites this past week. Additional enrichment activities may be found on the C-VUSD website.

### **Will distance learning work be graded?**

C-VUSD teachers are applying flexibility and understanding as students are confronted with the ever-changing and challenging demands of life at home during the pandemic. With this in mind, we want our students to continue to engage in learning on a daily basis to continue their academic goals and objectives. Our teachers are determined to support students as they work to successfully complete their courses to earn full credit toward graduation.

### **Are students required to participate in remote learning?**

Our distance learning began on Monday, March 16, and most students have been participating on a daily basis. It's important that students engage daily, to the greatest extent possible, so that they can make progress toward achieving the academic goals in each class. However, we understand some families may have situations that make participation difficult; we are prepared to discuss those situations on a case-by-case basis. Teachers will continue to reach out to students who have not participated to ensure that a plan is developed that will allow them to engage in distance learning. Please contact your school if your student is experiencing difficulty accessing the materials they need to complete their coursework.

### **How do I contact my student's counselor or teacher?**

Our counselors are skilled at assisting students experiencing personal difficulties, and their help during our closure will be invaluable to our students' wellbeing. We are working on designing remote methods for contacting our counselors. However, at this time, counselors are available via email during regular school hours. Counselors can advise students in a variety of ways and we will soon have a system in place for students to call their counselor on issues related to academics, careers, post-secondary, and personal and social issues. During the school closure, some students may be struggling with additional issues related to isolation. Resources to assist our students and families may be found on our website on the [Mental Health Services page](#). In addition, C-VUSD provides free access to confidential mental health referral services through [CareSolace](#).

Your student should already have a means of connecting with each of their teachers through their Google Classroom. We are working to create a teacher contact form on each school website if a student is having difficulty connecting with a teacher through the Google Classroom platform. Please check your school site website early next week for this feature.

**What's happening with SAT, ACT, AP, and CAASPP testing?**

**SAT and AP:** The College Board, which administers the SAT, has canceled the March 28 makeup and May 2 SAT test dates and has said they will provide refunds to families who were registered to take those assessments. The next SAT test date is June 6, with a registration deadline of May 27. The College Board is also working on remote learning for AP students and a plan to allow AP tests to be taken at home. The situation is frequently changing, so please see their latest updates on the [College Board COVID-19 website](#).

**ACT:** The April 4 ACT test date has been rescheduled to June 13. Please get the latest information on the [ACT COVID-19 website](#).

**CAASPP:** Governor Newsom signed an executive order suspending this year's statewide testing (CAASPP) for all California K-12 students due to the pandemic. This suspension does require federal approval, and we will keep all of our families updated on these developments.

**Will school meals continue to be provided?**

Yes. C-VUSD will continue to provide school meals for our students. Grab-and-Go lunches (and next day's breakfast) are available for pick-up at Northview High School between 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m Monday-Friday, excluding holidays and Spring Break.

Please know there are dedicated teachers, administrators, and support staff working hard to provide for your students' academic needs and overall wellbeing during these challenging times. This situation is evolving rapidly, and we will continue to share new information with you as we have it. For the latest updates, please visit [www.c-vusd.org](http://www.c-vusd.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R.M. Sheehan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Richard M. Sheehan, Ed.D.  
Superintendent Of Schools  
Covina-Valley Unified School District