



# NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

March 13, 2020

## **Classes Suspended To Mitigate Spread of COVID-19**

*Campuses close to students; Schools continue to offer meals, resources*



**MARIN COUNTY**  
OFFICE OF EDUCATION  
*building the future... one student at a time*

**San Rafael, CA** – To further mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in Marin County, [Marin County Department of Health and Human Services](http://www.marincounty.org/health-and-human-services) (HHS) and Marin County Office of Education (MCOE) announced that all public school campuses will suspend classroom instruction to students for at least two weeks beginning March 16.

The decision is based on the recommendation of Marin County Public Health and is fully supported by the Marin County Superintendent of Schools.

“The landscape related to the COVID-19 virus is rapidly changing, especially in the Bay Area,” said Dr. Willis. “This is one part of a series of steps we’re taking to support social distancing, to better protect the community at large.”

This step is following a series of policies for social distancing in response to COVID-19, including limiting large gatherings and tightening visitation protocols at nursing homes.

“Marin has a large population of seniors—this is one important reason we need to be proactive. These are key steps we can take to weather this together.” said Dr Willis.

MCOE is working with local districts, schools and community organizations to meet the needs of students who rely on schools for subsidized meals, special care and other resources. Families will receive information from respective schools related to these needs and opportunities for students to continue learning from home.

“Recognizing the challenges that a school closure poses for many families in our community, we are making this decision with a heavy heart but for the greater good,” said Mary Jane Burke, Marin County Superintendent of Schools. “Our priority is always the safety and well-being of our students. For the past month, our schools have received constant guidance from Public Health officials and remained aligned with their professional opinions. Given this unprecedented situation around the globe, we are

### **Contacts:**

#### **Dr. Matthew Willis**

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER  
Department of Health  
and Human Services

3240 Kerner Blvd.  
San Rafael, CA 94901  
415 473-4163 T  
CRS Dial 711  
[mwillis@marincounty.org](mailto:mwillis@marincounty.org)  
[www.marinhhs.org](http://www.marinhhs.org)

#### **Mary Jane Burke**

MARIN COUNTY  
SUPERINTENDENT OF  
SCHOOLS  
Marin County Office of  
Education

1111 Las Gallinas Avenue  
San Rafael, CA 94903  
415-499-5801  
[mjburke@marinschools.org](mailto:mjburke@marinschools.org)

acting in step with Marin Public Health and out of concern for all members of our community.”

The best way for the public to further stop the spread of germs in our community is to practice the following steps:

- Wash your hands *frequently* with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially before eating, after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing;
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer when soap and water is not available;
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue or crook of your elbow (not your hands). If you use a tissue, throw it away and wash your hands afterward;
- Avoid touching your face;
- Stay home from work or school if you have a fever or are feeling sick;
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe;
- Keep your distance from others and avoid close contact with people who are sick;
- Avoid crowded places and limit activities in public;
- Consider “touch-free” greeting alternatives to handshakes and hugs
- Avoid unnecessary travel;
- Get your flu shot to protect against flu.

Visit the official [Marin County Coronavirus webpage](http://MarinCountyCoronaviruswebpage) (MarinHHS.org/coronavirus) to review answers to frequently asked questions or subscribe to receive email updates. In addition, individuals can contact Marin HHS with non-medical COVID-19 questions by calling a dedicated [information call center](http://informationcallcenter) at (415) 473-7191 or by [email](mailto:email).

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**MEDIA NOTE:**

**ADDITIONAL CONTACTS:**

[California Department of Public Health Public Affairs](http://CaliforniaDepartmentofPublicHealthPublicAffairs): 916-445-6350  
[CDC Media Relations](http://CDCMediaRelations): 404-639-3286