

April 2, 2020



Dear Alvord Family Members,

It is with much sadness that I follow up last night's message with the official news that by Order of the Riverside County Office of Public Health, all school sites will remain closed until at least June 19. Given that, we are extending our Distance Learning program to May 28, the last day of the 2019-20 school year. Our teachers, counselors, instructional specialists and support providers, and principals are now preparing to execute our distance learning plan for the remainder of the school year. We are also preparing for [Summer School](#), which is scheduled from June 1 to June 26. Summer school classes, including credit-recovery, will also be delivered through a Distance Learning model. Stay tuned for more summer school information next week.

This unprecedented series of events related to the coronavirus has left us all in a state of shock and disbelief. Many of us know someone directly impacted by the coronavirus in one way or another. Whether it's a friend or relative stricken by COVID-19, or the hardship many, many families are experiencing due to job loss, as the unemployment rate is expected to climb to an estimated 32%. We have also learned of families who have become suddenly displaced, for one reason or another. We continue to reach out to all of our families by communicating regularly and accounting for their whereabouts, as best we can. Our teachers and principals strive to make a connection every day. And our counselors and other support providers work diligently to connect our families in need to crucial city and county services. This past week we have been providing meals during Spring Break, staffed by all employees, who volunteered to work this week to ensure our families are being fed. My primary concern is the loss of psychosocial assets among our students and their families. Its impact cannot be overstated, in my opinion. We will continue to focus on our students' well-being, from our littles to our bigs, by staying connected and connecting them to services. This is not a school issue anymore. It's a public health issue. We as educators have an opportunity to make an even greater impact than usual. Visit our [FAQ](#) section on Social-emotional support for resources, and visit it frequently as it's updated regularly.

My heart also goes out to our seniors. The Class of 2020 have had their lives disrupted at a monumental period. But in talking to five of our senior student leaders during my recent podcast, they have put graduation and their senior years in perspective. Sad they are, no doubt, and we are all profoundly sad for them, but they recognize the magnitude of this pandemic and gracefully await our contingency plan to provide them a proper graduation ceremony when it's safe to congregate large groups of people again. All we know at this point is that it can be no sooner than June 19, when the current Order from the Riverside County Public Health Office expires. It's anyone's guess at this point what will happen on June 20.

Our other focus is on delivering our Distance Learning program. On Monday, April 13, 2020, all of our teachers and other school support providers will have established an On-line presence to connect with their students remotely, most are already. Web conferencing tools include, but are not limited to: Google Classroom, Google Meets, Zoom, and ClassDojo. On behalf of the Board

of Education I am proud of the work our teachers and support staff are expertly doing to prepare for the delivery of Distance Learning from now until the end of the school year. To learn more about it and how you can support it, please visit the Teaching, Learning, Testing, & Grading section of our FAQ on-line [here](#). Use the FAQ to remain informed and to ask questions. There is a link to email me your questions and concerns on every page of the [FAQ](#). I am equally proud of the work of our management team and our classified and certificated employees who comprise our essential workforce and are physically present. They are the unsung heroes who are on the front lines everyday distributing meals or computers or beginning to ready our schools for our eventual re-opening.

Now that we have "closure" on the 2019-20 school year, the Board of Education and I will continue to interact remotely with our students, teachers, principals, parents and community leaders to discuss plans moving forward, including the 2020-21 school year and most immediately, plans for a proper graduation for our seniors, again, at some point when it's safe to congregate large groups of people. Hopefully, that's sooner rather than later.

Thank you staff, students, families and community partners for stepping up during this crisis and striking the perfect balance between taking care of your own families while still helping us take care of ours. [Here's a link to the AUSD podcast](#). We will be streaming a podcast live weekly from now until the end of the school year to stay connected to you and keep you informed. You can also stay connected by visiting our web site regularly and following us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, all @alvordunified.

In closing, on behalf of the Board of Education, our hearts go out to all of our families and fellow citizens who are struggling during this difficult time. Please continue to email me with your questions, concerns, and needs and I will continue to connect you to resources.

Respectfully,

Allan. J. Mucerino  
*Superintendent of Schools*  
Alvord Unified School District