



Dear RPA Staff, Students, and Families,

As promised, we are providing updated information following Governor Kate Brown's press conference where she set new rules to slow the spread of COVID-19 in Oregon. She issued Executive Order [20-05](#), which outlines rules addressing large gatherings and social distancing. Governor Brown also issued [guidelines for workplaces, schools, care facilities, and other community-wide mitigation efforts](#) to help protect vulnerable and high-risk Oregonians and to protect our state's health care system capacity. The measures are based on the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Oregon public health experts, epidemiologists, and health professionals.

We remain committed to keeping our schools safe. In accordance with this new guidance and in order to minimize potential opportunities for the virus to spread, we will begin suspending events that bring large groups of students, adults, and community members together.

Suspension of non-essential school-based activities begins immediately, effective Thursday, March 12, and will remain in effect for 30-days, which is through the end of the day on April 8.

- This includes a 30-day suspension of all school-based assemblies and events, off-campus field trips, and out-of-state travel for students and staff.
- This includes a 30-day suspension of all athletic and activity competitions. Activity practices will be able to continue at this time as scheduled.
- All facility usage by outside groups is suspended for the next 30-days.

We realize these changes will impact our staff, students, families, and communities and we know that many of the events, student performances, and other gatherings that we are suspending are those that many of us look forward to all year long. Suspending these events, however, is consistent with guidance from health authorities, and we believe it is a prudent and responsible step to take at this time. We will be coordinating with trip planners, event organizers, and others who are responsible for the affected activities.

Please know that all essential school activities, including classes, assessments, and after school classes, activity practices, and study sessions, will continue as scheduled. Should a case of COVID-19 present itself in our school community, we will collaborate with the Oregon Health Authority and the Oregon Department of Education to make determinations about a possible school closure. Should a school closure be deemed necessary, our staff has developed plans to deliver educational programs online for the duration of a closure.

RPA is taking steps to prevent infection and keep students safe, healthy, and learning in the classroom. RPA has put in place the following measures:

- Extra daily cleaning, focusing on frequently touched surfaces.
- Providing hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes in all of our classrooms and asking all visitors and volunteers to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer when they arrive and depart RPA.
- Encouraging anyone (staff, parents, students, volunteers, and visitors) who is feeling unwell to refrain from entering our school campuses and to promptly contact their healthcare provider.

We strongly encourage everyone to use proper hand washing techniques. [Current guidance](#) is to vigorously wash hands with friction, soap, and water for 20 seconds. Washing hands with soap and water remains the best way to get rid of germs in most situations. If soap and water are not readily available, you can use an alcohol-based [hand sanitizer](#) that contains at least 60% alcohol. In addition, we encourage everyone to follow proper [coughing and sneezing etiquette](#).

We encourage anyone who feels unwell in our school community to stay home. We are in regular contact with local and state health authorities, as well as local school districts, and are actively monitoring any potential changes to school schedules, and families will receive notification via email of any such changes. Also, we respect any family's wishes to limit their student's participation in any school activities or events. As always, we ask that you please contact our offices if your student will be absent from school.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding during this challenging time. We will continue to rely on the guidance of Oregon public health authorities, the Department of Education, and the Office of the Governor.

You can continue to find information about coronavirus by visiting [ODE's Health, Safety, and Wellness COVID-19 Resource Page](#).

Sincerely,

Jon Bullock
Executive Director