



TIPTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Stacey Bettencourt
Superintendent

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Tiger Pride!

March 14, 2020

Dear Tipton Community:

The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) has caused great concern and anxiety in our school and community. While there are no known cases in Tipton, there are two confirmed positive patients in Tulare County. Health officials have not confirmed any cases of community transmission, but we still do not know how this might impact our community. As we are dealing with the unknown, we are moving forward with a very difficult decision for our students, staff, and community.

On March 13, 2020, the governor of the state of California declared a state of emergency, guidelines were put forth to restrict public gatherings, the president of the United States declared a national emergency. District leaders have consulted multiple times with the Tulare County Department of Public Health and the county superintendent. This prompted multiple thoughtful and intentional conversations with the Tipton Elementary School Board and district leaders and we support the decision to close school through April 14th. We are optimistic that we will be able to return to school on April 14th. We are evaluating this evolving situation frequently and considering what is best for the Tipton Community.

Please know that this was not an easy decision. We know that temporarily closing Tipton Elementary has an extraordinary impact on our families. We will ensure continued learning for students and ensure that students have access to healthy meals. In the coming days we will have more information via phone calls, tiptonschool.org, and our Tipton Facebook page. The top priority for Tipton Elementary School District is student and staff safety. We believe that this is the appropriate precautionary action because students have the right to attend a safe school. Currently, the Tulare County Department of Public Health believes that the risk of transmission of COVID-19 is low. We continue to wait for the results of our staff member who is being tested, but there are currently no known cases affecting a student or staff member at our school site. We are focusing on containing COVID-19 to help prevent community spread. We continue to stay informed with information from federal, state, and local partners including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Tulare County Department of Public Health, and the Tulare County Superintendent.

Note: Parent conferences, Student of the Month, Third Quarter Awards, Saturday School, and LCAP Parent Night will be rescheduled for a later date in April. Information regarding meals for children will be sent tomorrow, March 15th.

Please support our efforts in taking the necessary action to keep all students and staff healthy and safe.

Respectfully,

Board Members

Greg Rice
President

Iva Sousa
Clerk

John Cardoza
Trustee

Shelley Heeger
Trustee

Fernando Cunha
Trustee

Mrs. Bettencourt and Dr. Solian