

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about School Closure

Q: Why are schools in Solana Beach School District closed?

A: Out of an abundance of caution, and in consultation with local public health officials, all San Diego County public school districts are closed in order to curb the potential transmission of the coronavirus (COVID-19).

Q: How long will our schools be closed?

A: All Solana Beach School District schools are closed as of March 16, 2020. At this point, we are planning for students to return to school on Monday, April 13, 2020.

Q: Will we still have our Spring Break?

A: Yes, Spring Break will still be held as scheduled from April 6 – 10, 2020.

Q: Is there meal service for students?

A: In order to meet the needs of our SBSD families with financial considerations and who are participants in our Free and Reduced Priced Meal Lunch Program (FRPM), Child Nutrition Services has taken measures to ensure that there will be no interruption in daily service with providing meals to these students.

As of Monday, March 16, 2020, meals are served at three sites Monday through Friday from 11:30 am – 12:30 pm. each week that schools are closed (excluding the week of Spring Break April 6-10). The three distribution sites are Skyline, Solana Ranch, and Solana Highlands. Distribution will be at the front of the schools. These sites will offer a drive through/walk up “Grab & Go” service where students, when accompanied by a parent or guardian, will receive a bagged lunch including a daily entrée, vegetables, fruit, milk, and juice. Locations are subject to change. Families in the meal program will be notified of any such changes.

Q: Will the school year be extended because of the closures?

A: As of this moment, we do not anticipate having to make up any school days at the end of the school year. Based on guidance in Governor Newsom’s Executive Order on March 13, 2020, the requirement for a minimum number of school days has been suspended.

Q: Are schools being cleaned while they are closed?

A: Our custodial staff is working diligently to deep clean all schools, as well as the District Office. They will be working throughout the school closures to prepare for students to return to school.

Q: What is social distancing?

A: From [Johns Hopkins University](#): “Social distancing is a public health practice that aims to prevent sick people from coming in close contact with healthy people in order to reduce opportunities for disease transmission. It can include large-scale measures like canceling group events or closing public spaces, as well as individual decisions such as avoiding crowds. With COVID-19, the goal of social distancing right now is to slow down the outbreak in order to reduce the chance of infection among high-risk populations and to reduce the burden on health care systems and workers.”

Please remind your children about the importance of social distancing as a way to curb the potential transmission of COVID-19. We’ve heard reports of children congregating in groups, as well as families hosting parties and other large get-togethers for kids - which undermines the

public health benefits of school closures.

Here's information from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) [About how to protect yourself](#).

Here's an opinion piece on Medium: [Social Distancing: This is Not a Snow Day](#)

Here's an article from CNN: [Take social distancing seriously and limit playdates, other activities, experts say](#)

Here's an article from Fox News: [Social distancing could help stop coronavirus spread: What does that mean?](#)

Q: If school is closed, can I still have playdates for my children, or have groups of children together to do homework?

A: Limiting social interactions for children is tough, but in counties ordered to “shelter in place,” they are prohibited, and many public health experts are saying playdates are not a good idea in general right now. The symptoms of coronavirus can take days to show up, and people can be contagious even if they do not yet have symptoms. Also, each additional child has other circles of contacts — their family and the people their family is in touch with. “Even if you choose only one friend to have over, you are creating new links and possibilities for the type of transmission that all of our school/work/public event closures are trying to prevent,” writes Dr. Asaf Bitton, a primary care physician and public health expert, in an opinion published on Medium.

In lieu of in-person playdates, some families are setting up video playdates for their kids, and encouraging them to write letters or emails to other family members or friends.

Q: Now that all schools and districts in San Diego County are closed, what should I tell my child about the virus?

A: “Be honest and say there is a cold virus that is showing up in different countries.” said Yvonne Maldonado, director of Infection Control at Stanford Children’s Hospital. “It makes some people very sick, but most people — especially children — seem not to get very sick with it.”

The [Centers for Disease Control](#) has a number of recommendations. These include:

- Remain calm and reassuring.
- Make yourself available to listen and to talk.
- Avoid language that might blame others and lead to [stigma](#).
- Pay attention to what children see or hear on television, radio or online.
- Provide information that is honest and accurate.
- Teach children everyday actions to reduce the spread of germs