



Raymond-Knowles Union Elementary School District

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Michelle Townsend, Superintendent/Principal

Raymond-Knowles Union Elementary School District Official Message Regarding School Closure

March 13, 2020

After careful deliberation with health agencies, neighboring school districts, local officials, and an emergency board meeting, effective immediately, **Raymond-Knowles Elementary will close school through March 31, 2020. All classes and events are canceled through this date.** We will re-evaluate our status for reopening of school on March 31, 2020, and will be in communication with you regarding an official reopening date.

The closure is a measure to help limit the spread of the new coronavirus or COVID-19. We do not have any confirmed cases of the new coronavirus in our school, but we are taking this step to help protect public health. We believe this is a short term sacrifice for long-term gain.

To minimize the loss of learning, we are working with staff to provide learning activities for students to do at home while school is closed. We will provide additional information as it becomes available.

During our school closure, all students, including any children under the age of 18, will be able to pick up a packaged lunch and breakfast for the following day. We will provide more details on how this will work in future communication.

Students should stay home when possible and minimize social contact to keep caregivers and adult family members safe. Children have not been shown to be a high-risk group for serious illness from this virus. However, they can transmit the virus to those most vulnerable. Public health officials recommend that families make arrangements for childcare during closure that avoids leaving children with elderly people or individuals with underlying health conditions who are more vulnerable to the impact of the virus.

I want to thank all staff who are working tirelessly to help our students remain connected to the school community. We know the adults at school are an important part of a student's life, and we will do our best to try and maintain that connection.

Thank you to our school families and community for your patience and trust as we work together to maintain a sense of normalcy in these difficult times. The next few weeks will be difficult and we are not certain what lies ahead. You have my unwavering commitment to do all the school can to help you, your children, and our community.

We will continue to do our best to keep you informed. Facts and circumstances may change quickly, so we encourage you to check our website <https://www.rkUSD.k12.ca.us/> regularly. Additional information will be posted online and delivered directly to parents via email, phone, text, Peachjar, and Facebook.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Michelle Townsend
Superintendent/Principal