

## RJUHSD FAQs for COVID-19 (3/11/20)

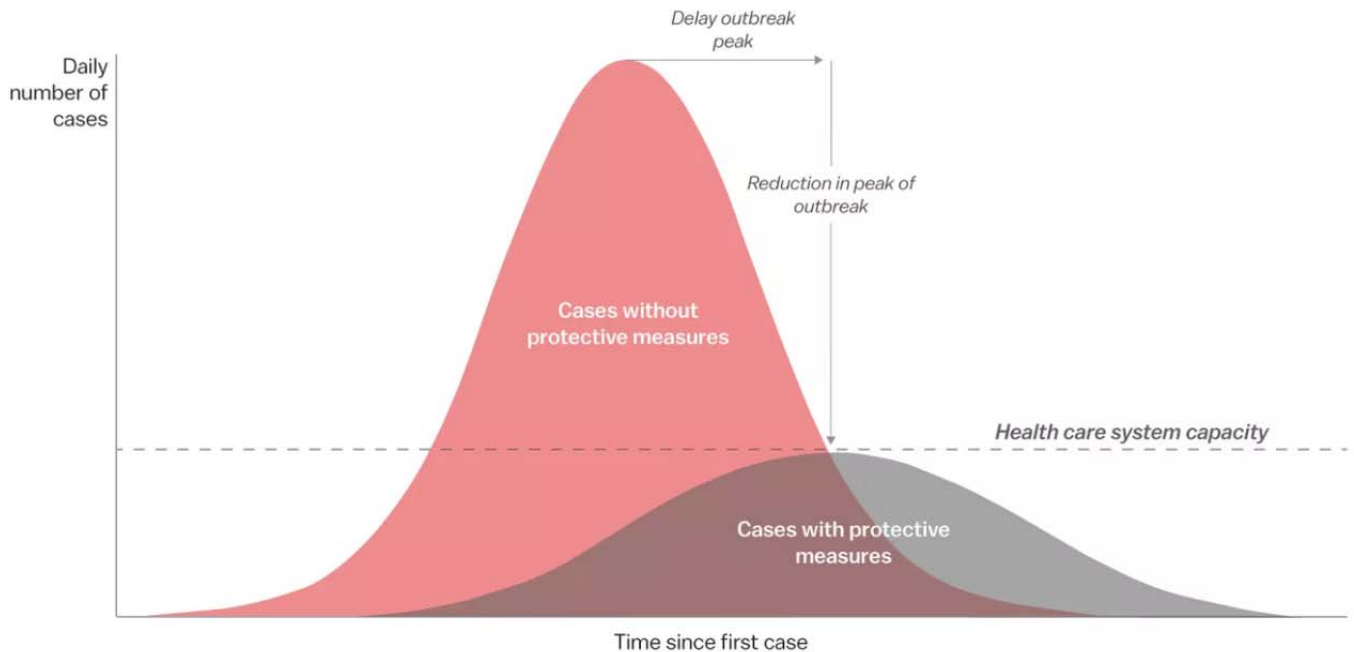
### Q: Why are social distancing strategies being recommended for schools?

Social distancing in public education can include: closing schools, canceling large gatherings, working from home, self-quarantine if symptomatic, and avoiding crowds. These strategies are being implemented to keep the virus from spreading fast.

### Q: Why is it important to slow the spread of the virus?

Epidemiologists call this strategy of preventing a huge spike in cases “flattening the curve,” and it looks like this:

### Flattening the curve



“Even if you don’t reduce total cases, slowing down the rate of an epidemic can be critical,” wrote Carl Bergstrom, a biologist at the University of Washington. The graphic above was created by the CDC.

Flattening the curve means that all the social distancing measures now being deployed aren’t so much about preventing illness but rather slowing down the rate at which people get sick.

### Q: What are the benefits of our social distancing actions to public health in our region?

“If more of us do that, we will slow the spread of the disease,” Emily Landon, an infectious disease specialist and hospital epidemiologist at the University of Chicago Medicine. “That means my mom and your mom will have a hospital bed if they need it.”

So, even if you’re young and healthy, it’s your job to follow social distancing measures to avoid spreading it to others and keep the epidemic in slow motion. “The more young and healthy people are sick at the same time, the more old people will be sick, and the more pressure there will be on the health care system,” said Landon.

### Q: Could some of the large group events that were cancelled be rescheduled for a later date?

Yes. We are hopeful some events can be rescheduled for later in the spring. This is a fluid situation and we are working closely with Placer County Office of Education and Placer County Department of Public Health to monitor the spread of COVID -19.

### Q: In what ways has RJUHSD collaborated with other local districts and agencies?

From the onset of COVID-19 we have worked closely with surrounding districts to make sure we are coordinating efforts to ensure the safety of students and staff in the region. We have direct access to Placer County Office of Education and Placer Department of Health and make contact as needed multiple times throughout the day.

- In the past 36 hours we consulted with Roseville City Schools, Eureka Union; Dry Creek, Rocklin, and Placer Union to compare action steps to implement social distancing in our respective districts
- We have connected with City of Roseville officials to share our mitigation plans

**Q: Why are we continuing to hold athletic events when all other events after 3pm are cancelled?**

Unlike other events, athletic contests are interdependent with other schools and school districts. We consulted with California Interscholastic Federation Sports (CIF) and our neighboring districts to move forward with holding sporting events that have approximately 50 or fewer participants and restricted the fans to immediate family members only. All large group sporting events have been postponed or cancelled. We will continue to review the status of athletic contests in the coming days and weeks.

**Q: Why was the SAT scheduled for 3/14 cancelled?**

Yesterday, RJUHSD used guidance from our local health department to cancel the SAT scheduled on 3/14/20 at Granite Bay HS. Today, College Board used guidance from national health experts to cancel the 3/14 SAT in all impacted areas of the county, including California. <https://pages.collegeboard.org/natural-disasters>

As of now, College Board has re-assigned the students from our 3/14 date to 3/28/20 at Granite Bay HS. We will continue to work closely with the College Board and will alert families if that date changes or is canceled. The next regularly scheduled SAT dates in 2020 are: May 2, June 6, August 29, October 3, November 7 and December 5.

**Q: Why haven't we closed schools?**

We are making decisions for RJUHSD based on guidance from the California Department of Education, California Department of Health and Human Services, and Placer County Health Department. ***At this time, there is no recommendation from Placer County Public Health for any school(s) to close.*** Class instruction in our districts will continue as planned with additional community mitigation steps in place. These steps can include postponement or cancellation of public events, field trips, large gatherings, performances, and school assemblies.

This is an understandably anxious time, and we appreciate how families and staff are working together to keep our community safe.

Sincerely,

Denise Herrmann  
Superintendent