



Alpine County Office of Education Alpine County Unified School District

Matthew Strahl, Superintendent

43 Hawkside Drive, Markleeville, California 96120-9522

District Office (530) 694-2230 • Fax (530) 694-2379 • Business Services (530) 694-2495

mstrahl@alpineco.k12.ca.us • Web Site: www.alpineco.k12.ca.us

March 17, 2020

Dear Alpine County Families,

The safety and wellness of students, families, and school personnel are the highest priorities of all schools in Alpine County. In recognition of the statewide COVID-19 situation and the potential impact in Alpine County, the Superintendent of Schools and Board of Trustees have decided in concurrence with Dr. Richard Johnson, County Public Health Officer, to **close all public Alpine County schools from March 17 to April 12, with Spring Break being moved a week earlier (from April 13-17) to April 6-10.**

Multiple counties, cities and school districts throughout California, as well as states across the country have made similar choices. This is a very dynamic and evolving situation and there is the possibility that conditions will change. Alpine County Unified School District will provide status updates as appropriate. At this time, however, **it is the intent of our district to remain closed until Sunday, April 12.**

For Diamond Valley and Bear Valley Elementary students, education will continue through an independent study system.

For Diamond Valley, **food delivery will begin this Thursday, at designated locations, for all preschool through high school students in Eastern Alpine County.** Independent study packets will be delivered on Friday at each of the food distribution stops. **Please see the attached page for details.**

While we recognize this decision will pose challenges and hardship to many families in our county, the most effective way to slow and disrupt the transmission of this pandemic is by implementing social distancing practices. During the time of the school closure, we are asking that students and families follow the recommendations of the County Public Health Officer to stay home and minimize social contact to the extent possible.

Protecting public health requires a community-wide response, and we will need the help of families to help remain united in our response. Mr. Strahl emphasizes that, while the closing school facilities is intended to protect students, teachers, and staff, **we need everyone to take social distancing seriously** if we are to achieve the greater benefit of protecting everyone in the County from COVID-19. While children have not been shown to be a high-risk group for serious illness from COVID-19, they are still able to transmit the virus to populations who are most vulnerable to serious illness, such as older adults and those with compromised immune systems.

To achieve the greatest effect in reducing COVID-19 transmission in Alpine County, please encourage students and their families during this time to:

- avoid public gatherings of more than 10 people, especially those that are indoors
- plan to spend the closure time with just their immediate family and a few friends
- use social media and phone to keep in touch with the rest of their family and friends
- postpone visits to older adult relatives and neighbors, and to people with compromised immune systems
- avoid traveling out of the county to other locations where COVID-19 is circulating more widely

We understand that implementing these changes with such limited notice is challenging and disruptive, and we appreciate your patience and cooperation. We are grateful to community members throughout our county for their tremendous efforts during these challenging times.

This is a dynamic situation where information and circumstances can evolve quickly.

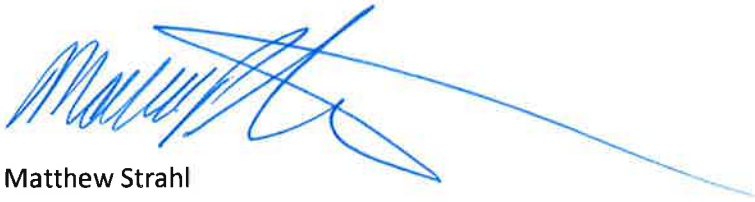
For the latest updates on COVID-19, visit:

Centers for Disease Control COVID-19 website: [cdc.gov/COVID19](https://www.cdc.gov/COVID19)

For ideas on how to talk to your children about COVID-19 please visit the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) webpage about Talking to Children About COVID-19 (Coronavirus):

[https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-\(coronavirus\)-a-parent-resource](https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-(coronavirus)-a-parent-resource)

Sincerely,



Matthew Strahl
Alpine County Superintendent of Schools

Alpine County Unified School District

Food and Education Materials for students during school closures

Alpine County Unified School District (ACUSD) will continue to provide breakfast and lunch (Monday through Friday) for all eastern Alpine County students (preschool through high school) during the school closure (except for the week of April 6-10, which is now Spring Break).

Food will be distributed by the bus driver and aide daily at the following locations and times. To receive LUNCH for the current day and BREAKFAST for the following day, **students/families must meet the driver/aide DURING the times listed below. No food will be left behind and there are no alternative pick up locations/times.**

Beginning Thursday, March 19 through Friday, April 3

Area / Community	Pick-Up Location	Time (Monday – Friday)
Sierra Pines	Front entrance	9:05-9:15 am
Hung-A-Lel-Ti	WIEC	9:10-9:20 am
Markleeville	Markleeville Library Parking Lot	9:30-9:45 am
Woodfords / Mesa	Alpine Early Learning Center Lower Parking Lot – 100 Foothill Road	9:30-9:40 am

Educational Materials will be delivered at each food drop off location on Fridays. All families are expected to pick up their Independent Study Packets on Fridays, even if they don't pick up food.

Education will continue through an independent study system. Teachers will prepare independent study materials for each of their students. Each student will receive a packet on Friday (beginning this Friday, March 20), which will be due the following Friday. Please turn in completed packets to the driver / aide at the food delivery location, according to the food delivery schedule above.

If students need additional support, teachers will be available by phone for office hours as follows:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00 am to 12:00 pm				No office hours – Pick up / Drop off Independent Study packets at Food Distribution locations
Call the Diamond Valley Office at (530) 694-2238 Request to speak to a teacher about your independent study packet				