

March 11, 2020

Dear Odyssey Charter Schools Community Members:

As always, the health and wellbeing of our students, staff, and community members are our top priorities.

Last evening, we received notice that OCS- South's charter authorizer, Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD), is taking precautionary measures to reduce exposure to COVID-19 (coronavirus). PUSD schools and the schools that reside in their District are now in Scenario II of the California Department of Public Health's guidance for schools. This involves taking more immediate and proactive steps to ensure the safety of our students. These decisions are part of social distancing measures in light of COVID-19 concerns and out of concern for the health of our community.

#### **Odyssey Charter Schools Plan of Action**

Please review the information below about the immediate measures Odyssey Charter Schools are taking to protect our students, staff, and families. We will assess and reevaluate these measures after returning from spring break on April 6, 2020.

Tom Sawyer Camps will continue to run their regular program at both schools to support work. **Odyssey Charter Schools are taking the following immediate steps:**

- Effective today, Wednesday, March 11 through April 12, Odyssey Charter Schools are **postponing or canceling all public events** that bring large groups of students, adults, and community members together.
- These actions include:
  - OPPG/OSPPG Spelling Bee (Scheduled March 14)
  - School assemblies and performances
  - Classroom Learning & Writing Celebrations
  - Morning Reading
  - Parent Ed Nights
  - All school level parent/community meetings, including OPPG and OSPPG meetings and events
  - Odyssey Rockfest (Scheduled on March 26 & March 27)
  - All school field trips (including walking field Trips) scheduled through April 10
- Effective immediately, we are limiting visitors to Odyssey Charter schools, including volunteers. We look forward to welcoming our dedicated volunteers back to our campus later this spring.
- Teachers and staff with any fever or respiratory infection symptoms should not come to work. Teachers and staff will self-screen (i.e. check themselves for fever 100F or higher and/or respiratory systems such as a productive cough) for respiratory infection symptoms each morning before interacting with students.
- 5th-8th After School Athletics will continue to be evaluated in consultation with PUSD and LACOE. We will have a determination soon.

- After School Enrichment programs will continue to be evaluated in consultation with PUSD and LACOE. We will have a determination soon.

At this time, Public Health does not recommend proactively closing schools. School closures also create concerns about child care and possibly exposing at risk caregivers. By keeping our doors open, we help ensure that our community stays safe.

**Please continue to take all possible precautions to help reduce the risk of spreading germs to others. These include the following recommendations from public health officials:**

- Keep children who are sick at home and away from others if they have a fever of 100°F or above.
- #1 prevention method is frequent handwashing with soap and water for 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not available, hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol can be used. Use of soap and water is best.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands. If you do not have a tissue, use your sleeve (not your hands).
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limit close contact, like kissing and sharing cups or utensils, with people who are sick.
- Face masks are most effective when used appropriately by health care workers and people who are sick.
- Clean frequently used surfaces.
- Get the flu vaccine if you have not done so this season. It's not too late to get the flu vaccine. Being protected against the flu will decrease the number of people using healthcare resources and allow resources to be available for people who may have COVID-19.
- Practicing simple steps that limit your exposure to others who may be ill (such as verbal salutations instead of handshakes and hugs, not sharing utensils, cups and linens).

You can learn more about the communique from the [Pasadena Unified School District about COVID-19 online.](#)

You can learn more about COVID-19 on the following websites:

[Centers for Disease Control](#)  
[Pasadena Public Health Department](#)

Thank you for your support and understanding as we all work through this evolving situation. We will continue to provide you regular updates and take action as needed.

Sincerely,

Lauren O'Neill, Executive Director  
Odyssey Charter Schools