



# OJAI VALLEY SCHOOL

March 13, 2020

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## IMPORTANT COVID-19 UPDATE

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Dear OVS Students, Families and Faculty,

Since our announcement yesterday, the current threat of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) has increased and the Ventura County Department of Public Health has now declared a local health emergency.

Given the fact that community spread of COVID-19 is occurring in our neighboring communities, we are making the decision to suspend in-person classes, effective at the of the academic day, and move to online learning for the next three weeks. Our plan is to resume in-person classes after Spring Break.

On Monday, there will be no classes while our teachers participate in in-service training. We will initiate our remote learning plan on Tuesday, March 17. The Heads of School will send additional information later today about specific school schedules and distance learning plans.

I want to emphasize that we do not currently have a known COVID-19 case at Ojai Valley School, or in the Ojai Valley. However, given the increasing spread regionally, and the heightened concern globally, we are making this decision to prioritize the health and well-being of our students, employees, and families. We have the opportunity now to prevent the spread of this virus, and that is why we are taking this action.

We know that a small number of resident students will need to remain on campus as they are unable to return home immediately due to a variety of travel restrictions already in place. We are staffed and ready to support the needs of those students in our dormitories for as long as necessary. However, if you are able, please try to make arrangements for your resident student to come home as soon as possible. If you live locally and are able to home-stay a student, please contact us at [ovs@ovs.org](mailto:ovs@ovs.org).

Moving forward, we are restricting all non-essential visitor access to our two campuses and we are requesting that students, employees, and families avoid large public gatherings and practice social distancing as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The CDC has been clear: The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus.

We will complete a deep cleaning of our two campuses during this time, and will be in frequent communication in the coming days and weeks. We will continue to post updates to our website at [www.ovs.org/covid-19-advisory](http://www.ovs.org/covid-19-advisory).

This is a necessary change in plans for all of us, and we appreciate your flexibility and support during this challenging time.

Sincerely yours,

Michael J. Hall-Mounsey  
President/CEO