**COVID-19 Update March 26, 2020**

**Stanislaus County Office of Education and School Districts Announce Extended School Closures**

Dear Chatom Union School District Staff, Students, and Families,

Many areas in California, including Stanislaus County, are experiencing an expanding outbreak of respiratory illness caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19). When public schools closed on March 19, there were only 2 known cases and 19 pending test results. Today, there are 12 positive cases. To prevent even more spread of COVID-19, the Stanislaus County Office of Education, in collaboration with the 25 school districts in the county, and the Stanislaus Public Health Department, is announcing that school closures are extending through May 3, 2020. We are currently planning to reopen on May 4, 2020; however, this date may be extended based on the development of the COVID-19.

School administrators across Stanislaus County appreciate the proactive illness prevention steps that our families and staff have taken. We encourage you to continue washing hands for 20 seconds, cough or sneeze into your sleeve and stay at home if possible. If you need to go out, please practice “Social Distancing” by remaining at least 6 feet away from others.

Currently, the Stanislaus County Office of Emergency Service is providing daily updates on the StanEmergency Facebook page. A video message or live video airs every day at 5:30 p.m. and Wednesday’s update features a question and answer session.

Our District will continue to communicate through Parent Square and the Chatom website at www.chatom.k12.ca.us to keep you informed. We will be continuing to offer school meals, student learning and social and emotional support during these unprecedented times.

We recognize the significant impact extending school closure will have on our entire community, students, families, and staff. This is a challenging time for our county and community and we are committed to working with you in the best interest of keeping our students and staff safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Cherise Olvera