Q. Are there travel restrictions currently in place for students or staff in either the United States or abroad?

A. There are no travel restrictions currently within the U.S. The Centers for Disease Control advises travelers to avoid all nonessential travel to China, Iran, Italy or South Korea. Families returning from these countries are being asked to self-isolate for 14 days and monitor for symptoms.

Q. If we had to close schools completely would staff be allowed to stay home as well? If so, would that count against them for attendance?

A. If staff is working from home that would count for a workday by mutual agreement with the district.

If staff is not working from home and the school is eligible to recoup costs through a CDE JA-13 waiver, districts should seek guidance from the CDE and/or their legal counsel as to the provisions of that waiver. These situations will likely need to be sorted out after the fact. It is important that schools and districts keep accurate accounting of employee time.

Further, districts may have “emergency clauses” in their collective bargaining agreement language and/or board policy that allows districts to suspend all or parts of collective bargaining agreements. It is important to become familiar with this language as soon as possible.
Q. If a school is closed, how does that impact classified employees: gardeners, custodian, food service workers?

A. Please refer to pay policy for classified staff.

In regard to reimbursement to offset Nutrition Services personnel expenses:

Schools that are closed due to a state or federally declared disaster may apply for reimbursement to offset fixed expenses. Applications should be submitted immediately after the disaster. To be able to claim for disasters, complete the CDE Application for Meal Reimbursement During Disaster form. It can be found in the Child Nutrition Information and Payment System, in the download forms section. In Section A of the form, provide a detailed explanation for site closure.

For assistance with submitting the claim, contact your Child Nutrition Fiscal Service Analyst shown on the CDE Nutrition Services web page here.

Q. What is the difference between a school closure and dismissal?

A. In a dismissal, students do not attend school and stay home; staff reports to work. In a closure, staff and students stay home.

Q. Is it possible if a school district closes that we could we partner with other school districts to provide school meals and meet the nutrition needs of students?

A. CDE has recently received a waiver from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to approve sponsors of the Summer Food Service Program and Seamless Summer Option to provide meals during unanticipated school closures due to the novel coronavirus at both school and non-school sites and in non-congregate settings. This will enable approved sponsors to offer grab-and-go meal service, allowing meals to be taken away from the site and consumed elsewhere to allow for social distancing.
Each School Food Authority must submit a request to the CDE to obtain approval to provide meals during unanticipated school closure. The waiver request must include the following:

- Name of school(s) covered by waiver request;
- At what point following school dismissal the meal service would start;
- What meal distribution method(s) the institution will use and how the waiver will target the children in the dismissed schools;
- How the meal distribution will target low-income children, if the school does not have 50 percent or more free or reduced price children enrolled;
- Methods for communicating with families; and
- How the SFA will ensure proper operation of the program including meal content, meal counts, food safety, oversight, etc.

Q. Is there any guidance when parents have traveled overseas and have been directed to self-isolate by companies, but students are still going to school?

A. If someone in the family is in self-quarantine but has no symptoms, others in home are not subject to being in quarantine. This is subject to symptoms. However, if a person who was self-quarantined develops symptoms, he/she is to let Public Health know and the rest of family will go into self-quarantine.

Q. Will the County notify us if there is a person in our community or district with a confirmed case of COVID-19?

A. That information is confidential. The individual will not be identified if he/she is not associated with the school or had interactions in the school. The district will be notified if a person is identified with COVID-19 and he/she is a school staff member or student. Personal information is completely confidential. Public Health will advise districts what information should be shared.
Q. Could school closures result in districts having to change the school calendar and extend (like snow days in some areas of the country)?

A. This could occur if the school closed without recommendation of the county health department and/or the form J-13A was not approved by CDE. LEAs are encouraged to add days and/or minutes of instruction to the school calendar when instructional days and minutes are lost. In an emergency, the health and safety of students and staff are the primary concern, but the instructional program should not be allowed to be a secondary casualty. Although no longer required to do so, districts and county offices should make every effort to replace instructional time losses and restore the instructional program as soon as safety allows.