

IT'S A WASH

UNPRECEDENTED COVID-19 CRISIS LEADS TO STATEWIDE SHELTER-IN-PLACE MANDATE, CLOSED SCHOOLS & CANCELATIONS

Spread by Mariah Barsotti & Grace Conlan

BEGINNING with the first reported case on Dec. 31 in China, COVID-19, or a new strain of the Coronavirus, rapidly spread throughout the world, with over 1.2 million cases globally and more than 54,000 deaths as of April 3. The World Health Organization declared the virus a pandemic on March 11. COVID-19 resulted in multiple mandated quarantines internationally and travel restrictions globally.

The Austin Independent School District (AISD) canceled school at 2 a.m. on March 13, the day before spring break, after two confirmed cases of Covid-19 were reported in the Austin area.

AISD subsequently canceled school for students for the two weeks following spring break, stating that classes would resume virtually

starting April 6. AISD ensured online learning by providing students that did not already have Chromebooks or iPads the resources to support online learning with those services. Bowie teachers used Blend, Zoom, and other online services to carry out instruction.

Texas Governor Greg Abbott mandated for Texas schools to be closed until May 4, but on April 3 AISD announced school buildings would remain closed indefinitely and students would continue virtual learning.

According to President Donald Trump, the virus may be in full swing until late summer, but some public health experts warn it could continue through the fall or beyond, until a suitable vaccine or treatment is developed. Photo by Grace Conlan

PURELL PARADISE

FROM SXSW CANCELING TO EMPTY GROCERY SHELVES, THE HITS KEPT COMING

HEB EMPLOYEE

"Things got really crazy after school was closed the Friday before spring break.

When I went to work there were lines to the back of the store of people trying to stock up. It's been consistently bad throughout the break as people are lining up early to get toilet paper and hand sanitizer.

The craziest thing that I saw was when I went to work at 7:15 in the morning, there was a line of 100+ people in front of the door and we weren't opening until 8." *Thanio Bright¹¹*




SXSW VOLUNTEER

"Instead of volunteering, I ended up having to do self-quarantine, because of some concerns with one of my family members possibly having had direct contact with someone that has COVID-19.


At first I was kind of upset that it was an overreaction and I was worried because some of my family members work for SXSW all year and it's their main source of income. Now I see that it was necessary and that I personally know people that would be severely affected by it." *Emma Graham¹⁰*

ALONE together


VIA INSTAGRAM, SELF-ISOLATION IN SIX WORDS

-  stayinyolaineee

i am now a film expert

Reply >
-  mia_brelsford

'Quarantined' at a resort in Cancun

Reply >
-  gracee.burden

has it only been one week

Reply >

saturday MARCH 7 fine arts trip to Ireland CANCELED



"My ensemble and I put a lot of work into preparing for our performance in the Christ church. We practiced almost every morning for a while, and not being able to perform in the church was upsetting. But the trip was canceled to keep us safe, so it's understandable." *Luke Hallaway¹¹*

BAND



"We were all very disappointed. Obviously everyone lost a lot of money, and especially as a senior going to college next year, that amount of money was invaluable. A lot of us also invested a lot of extra time learning and rehearsing pieces we were going to perform in Ireland." *Hannah Cherukuri¹²*

CHOIR



"I very much enjoy traveling and hearing that the Ireland trip was canceled was pretty upsetting, it seemed like it would be a fun place to visit. That being said, I can see how it could have been a bad situation if we had gone because the Coronavirus is very dangerous." *Trey Tinsley¹²*

ORCHESTRA

tuesday MARCH 10 silver stars trip to LA CANCELED

DESPITE THE CANCELAN, 41 TEAM MEMBERS CHOSE TO GO ON THEIR OWN

STAY

"I decided to stay instead of going to LA because the Coronavirus is pretty dangerous and we didn't really have the authority of the directors either because now it's not an Austin ISD trip so it's just safer to stay." *Keira Folkers¹⁰*



VS GO



I decided to go to LA because it is the only trip I get as a Silver Star and I didn't want to give the opportunity up. I'm not really worried about getting sick, the opportunity outweighed the risk." *Ellie Geeslin¹¹*

thursday MARCH 12 pals and colorguard events CANCELED



"Everyone in the program is crushed. We've built up such great connections with all the kids that we see, and we will miss them if we don't get the chance to go back. We also feel bad for the kids because we know how excited they are every time we come so it's just a bad feeling on both ends." *Blake Guerra¹¹*

PALS



"We were ranked tenth in the world and we could have gotten top five in the entire world, in my opinion, at WGI World Championships, but that's not an opportunity we're able to pursue anymore. World Championships being canceled is really sad because I'm a senior and it would have been my last time performing with Bowie at Dayton." *Audrey Vera¹²*

COLORGUARD

BLACK THURSDAY

THE DOW: THE LARGEST ONE DAY DROP SINCE 1987

"Myself, as well as a large majority of investors, have seen sickening losses over the past two months. In order to minimize further losses, I have withdrawn the majority of my shares in companies, and will continue to hold onto cash until the situation with the Coronavirus has been 'controlled'. Until I feel that the market has regained a bullish market, I have no intentions of investing." *Cole Harrison¹¹*

friday MARCH 13 school for the day CANCELED



"I realized we probably wouldn't be going back to school and my senior year was most likely ending that day. So I was kind of upset that I didn't get to say goodbye to my teachers or my peers." *Ethan Ramirez¹²*

66%

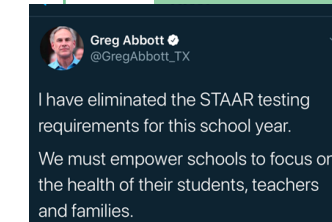
of students' spring break plans were changed
149 students polled, 34% did not experience any change of plans

FFA events CANCELED



"I put a lot of time, money and hard work into raising my steer so I was devastated when the San Antonio and Austin rodeos were canceled. That was my last chance to show my steer and I'm a senior so I'll never get to show again." *Kaitlyn Cinque¹²*

monday MARCH 16 STAAR testing CANCELED

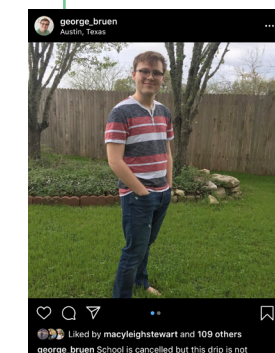


Greg Abbott @GregAbbott_TX

I have eliminated the STAAR testing requirements for this school year. We must empower schools to focus on the health of their students, teachers and families.

"I feel as this pandemic goes on it is creating more and more panic throughout young people. Canceling the STAAR was a huge factor

because this pandemic is very stressful and canceling the testing helped to relieve some of that stress." *Emma Snowden⁹*



george_bruen

Austin, Texas

School is cancelled but this trip is not

SCHOOL CANCELED UNTIL APRIL 6

"I'm unhappy because I miss my friends. It is nice to take a break from all the rush of school though but the situation isn't the best." *George Bruen¹⁰*

APRIL 2 foreign exchange program

"The exchange program didn't want host families to be responsible for us getting Coronavirus, so I had to go back to Germany. My flight has been canceled three times due to everything so I'm one of the last in the program to fly back. I've flown to Austin, Houston and New York, and am about to fly to Germany. I'm not scared about getting sick, but when I get back to Germany I'm definitely going to self-quarantine. I don't want to pass anything along. I hate I had to leave my host family and Bowie early. I wanted to be able to go to prom and have my full American experience but I can't." *Eslem Erdoga¹¹*