

VIRAL CHANGE

March

Socorro ISD
@SocorroISD

Due to growing concerns about COVID-19 and to help limit the spread of potential illness in our community, Socorro ISD will delay the return from our Spring intersession until Monday, April 6, 2020. Read Dr. Espinoza's letter below.



March 13
As the spread of COVID-19 accelerated, SISD decided to extend spring intersession for two extra weeks.

El Paso Times
@elpasotimes

#BREAKING: El Paso health officials are reporting the city's first positive test result for COVID-19 in the area, authorities said.



First positive case of coronavirus reported in El Paso area
elpasotimes.com

8:16 PM · 3/13/20 · SocialNewsDesk
93 Retweets 84 Likes

March 14
Lou Romano
@RomanoCBS4

BREAKING!!!
UIL IS SUSPENDING ALL SPORTING EVENTS EFFECTIVE MONDAY, MARCH 16TH THRU SUNDAY, MARCH 29TH.
@CBS4Local @KFOX14 @ELPASOISD @YsletaISD @SocorroISD @ClintISD @CanutilloISD



UIL cancels all events from March 16 through March 29.

Tatiana Favela
@TatianaTSM

BREAKING: El Paso City Council passed an emergency ordinance that calls for some of the following for the next 30 days.

- closure of bars, private clubs, arcades, and taverns.
- prevents any utility disconnections and evictions.
- restrictions on restaurants

2:34 PM · 3/17/20 · Twitter for iPhone
218 Retweets 410 Likes

March 17
City Council votes to close all non-essential businesses and prohibits restaurants from allowing dine-in customers.

March 19
Chris Costa
@ChrisCostaTV

@GovAbbott Exec order: Everyone in TX avoid groups of 10 or more. No dining in at bars/restaurants or using gyms. Encouraging drive-thru/takeout. PPL shall not visit retirement homes, etc unless emergency care. All schools temporarily closed, with online or other education @KHOU

11:23 AM · 3/19/20 · Twitter for iPhone
6 Retweets 4 Likes

Chris Costa
@ChrisCostaTV

Replying to @ChrisCostaTV
This exec order is NOT a shelter in place order! go to grocery store, parks, Banks. Domestic travel not restricted. Offices

Texas Governor Greg Abbott institutes new restrictions on groups.



Junior Chris Harris with his family.

Chris Harris @5_ChrisHarris_5 · 3/23/20
On the behalf of me and my family I'd like to thank everyone that has reached out and sent their condolences for my grandfather, it hurts so much to know my best friend is gone but I know he's in a better place living his best life. Again I can't thank all of you enough. God bless

19 10 278

Chris Harris @5_ChrisHarris_5 · 3/20/20
Asking for thoughts & prayers for my family and I right now, virus has infected someone very close to me and we could use the support right now

28 53 650



Harris with grandfather Arnold Obey.

March 22 HIT HARD

AZTEC LOSES GRANDFATHER TO VIRUS

"We thought it would go away, until my grandfather passed."
Those were the words that Chris Harris said, warning fellow students and El Pasoans about the very real dangers of the COVID-19 pandemic.

When news of the virus began to change the way of life, senior Chris Harris and his family did not think much of the virus. Like most, they thought it would pass and life would go back to normal. It was only when it came to their doorstep, affecting Harris' grandparents, that they had to face the pandemic's severity.

"It hit us hard," Harris said. "It became a reality to us that this was real and very severe."

On March 23, Arnold Obey, Harris's grandfather, died as a result of the virus.

"Losing him has left a big hole in my heart," Harris said. "And that hole will never be filled."

Arnold Obey was born on March 5, 1947 and was a father figure for senior Chris Harris. He said Obey was there for him when he felt like there was no one else to talk to and made him the man he is today.

"It's been tough accepting the fact that he's gone," Harris said. "I know that he is at peace and would want me to continue living, not just for me, but for him."

Copy by Heather Nguyen.

NOVEL VOCABULARY

Flatten the Curve
Slowing the spread of an epidemic disease so that the capacity of the health care system doesn't become overwhelmed.

Community Spread
The spread of a disease where the infection source is unknown.

Social Distancing
Measures that reduce contact between large groups of people.

Asymptomatic
Showing no evidence of disease, but according to research, still being infected and able to spread the disease.

Quarantine
A strict isolation imposed on people who may have had contact with the virus to prevent the spread of a disease.

Zooming
As a verb, used to describe video meetings, both professional and personal, using the Zoom website.

EMERGENCY ALERTS

Public Safety Alert

Please do these five simple things to help stop COVID19. Wash your hands often. Cough & Sneeze into your elbow. Don't touch your face. Stay 6 feet apart. Stay home if you feel sick and call your doctor. For more information visit ephealth.com

STAY-AT-HOME ORDER EXTENDS TO MAY 17

With the spread of the COVID-19 virus, El Paso County issued an indefinite stay-at-home order on March 24, 11 days after the first positive COVID-19 case was reported on March 13. With school and event cancellation in order, El Pasoans had to change their way of life quickly. Health authorities in the county and at the CDC urged everyone to wear face mask at the grocery store and pharmacy, along with maintaining social distance. To enforce that, non-essential businesses and parks were closed.

As of April 13, there were 300 positive cases of the virus in El Paso. While the death count remained at two, El Pasoans complained of residents ignoring the order and continuing their daily routines. As a result, the city extended the stay at home order to May 17.

Copy by Heather Nguyen, Lia Rodriguez and Nayeli Andrade.

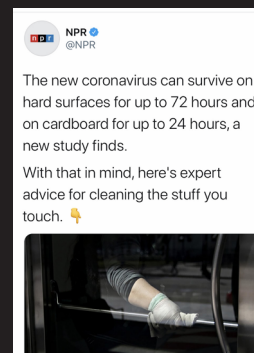
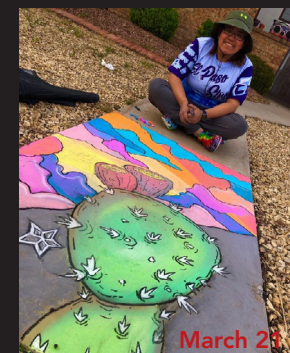
How I be spending my spring break vacation, waiting an hour for toilet paper



As non-essential business were restricted on March 17, panic buying caused long lines at stores, empty shelves and a lack of toilet paper rolls. This photo was posted to Melody Medina's Instagram account.

March 24

City officials issue a stay-at-home order, in effect until April 30. Sports teams, clubs, organizations and teachers hosted Zoom meetings with the start of distance learning.



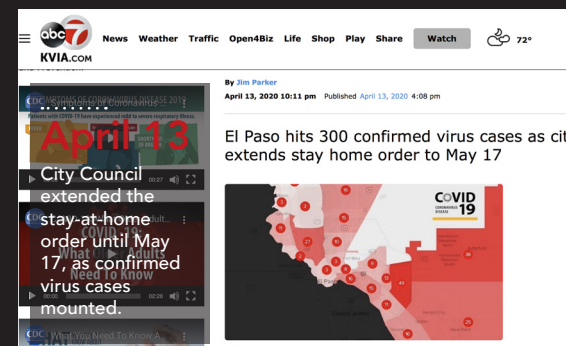
March 20

More information about the virus emerges, and Aztecs find ways to pass the time in self-isolation, like art teacher Allison Vega and her chalk creation.

April

March 30

Seniors across SISD decorate their front doors with items that represented their senior year, including senior Danya Ruiz.



April 17

Gov. Abbott closes schools for the rest of the semester, and UIL announces that all athletic seasons and academic competitions are cancelled.



"I would never change my mind about my outfits."
Leslie Gutierrez, 12

Design by Carolina Arredondo and Romario Gonzalez