April 7, 2020 – COVID-19 Update No. 17

STATE AND NATIONAL GUIDANCE/EXECUTIVE ORDERS

Gov. Gavin Newsom today gave an update on the state’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic. (All daily news conferences are streamed live at noon on his Twitter page and the California Governor Facebook page.)

During today’s update, on World Health Day, the governor announced the launch of new resources for Californians to regulate their stress response in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic violence, child abuse or other anxiety/mental health concerns, resources are available. You can find more information here and elsewhere on California’s COVID-19 website. We also have two other helpful articles below in the ‘Other Information’ section. Additionally, Dr. Nadine Burke Harris, California’s surgeon general, participated in a very informative Q&A on Twitter this afternoon. Read all the questions and answers by searching for the hashtag #AskDrBurkeHarris on Twitter.

The governor also gave somewhat of an optimistic update on California’s efforts to flatten the coronavirus curve. He said it is bending, but it’s also stretching out longer- meaning the stay-at-home orders are working, but continued action is needed to slow the spread. You can watch the full update here. (Please note: the broadcast begins around the 5:00 mark.)

The Department of Labor has issued this Q&A to help provide compliance assistance to employers and employees on their responsibilities and rights under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act.

A lot of us still have questions about the relief checks coming from the IRS. The IRS continually updates its website with new information, and this is a great breakdown of who will get checks and who won’t. San Bernardino County is now ordering all residents to wear a face cover when going outside.

SYSTEM GUIDANCE

The California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office is committed to keeping everyone informed during this time of uncertainty. We encourage everyone, including administrators, staff, faculty and students, to routinely check the Chancellor’s Office COVID-19 resource page, as it is updated daily with memos, recommendations and common questions/answers related to the pandemic and its impact on our system.

ONLINE INSTRUCTION

The Accessibility Center will also offer a webinar on Otter.ai, an app that can help students with note taking by recording class lectures and presentations and converting that information into text. The webinar is Thursday, April 9 at 1:00 p.m. Find more information here. To participate in the activities during this webinar, participants can set up a free Otter.ai account beforehand.

Our partners at SDSU, Dr. Frank Harris III and Dr. Luke Wood, are hosting another webinar: Equity-Minded Student Services in the Online Environment. The webinar will focus on equity-minded student services.
strategies and practices that can be employed by community college professionals in the online environment, and is a wonderful way to support the Vision for Success. The webinar is Thursday, April 9, at 10:00 a.m. Register at this link.

The California Virtual Campus-Online Education Initiative has developed an Emergency Preparedness Resources web site for assistance converting in-person classes to online. Several webinars are scheduled to help during this transition. (Please note: Recordings will be posted afterward for people who are unable to attend).

RESOURCES

The California Department of Education and Wellness Together are offering a three-part webinar series that will facilitate an ongoing discussion to highlight practices, programs and policies to strengthen student supports in the midst of school closures. The webinars will be on Thursdays, beginning April 9, from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. It’s a free event, but RSVP is required for attendance and space is limited. Find more information here.

College practitioners can find COVID-19 resources, information, and community within the Vision Resource Center. Create an account or log in. Under the “Connect” menu, visit “All Communities” and look for the “CCC | COVID-19 Resources, Tools and Discussion” section. Click “Join Community” to access the content within.

For online instruction support requests, please contact CVC-OEI.

STUDENT SUPPORTS

CVC-OEI has a full page of resources dedicated to helping students transition to online learning. Resources include a number of videos on how to prepare for and succeed in a virtual classroom, as well an overview of Canvas. The page also details the companies offering free or low-cost internet access across the state.

Many of students are wondering if they’re stuck in an apartment lease after they moved back home when colleges moved online. This article offers some answers.

If you or someone you know is struggling with mental health or suicidal thoughts, please call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800-273-8255 or text the Crisis Text Line at 741741.

UNEMPLOYMENT RESOURCES

If you’ve lost your job during the pandemic, you can still sign up for health care insurance. Anyone uninsured and eligible to enroll in health care coverage through Covered California can sign up through the end of June. Find more information here.

The state’s Employment Development Department also maintains a list of resources that people can receive while going through the unemployment process. La página también está disponible en español.

HOW TO HELP

Philanthropic and corporate partners, as well as those looking to make a major gift or grant, are encouraged to contact the Foundation for California Community Colleges. Individual donations are also being accepted through the Foundation and will be deployed to individual colleges supporting students impacted by lost wages, campus closures and the transition to distance education caused by COVID-19. Check here for more details on how to give now.

The California Volunteers website has a list of nonprofit organizations and food banks that are in dire need of volunteers, supplies and financial help.

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to a severe blood shortage across the country. If you’re able to donate, please visit the American Red Cross or your local blood bank to schedule a donation. Some restrictions have been loosened to increase the number of people who can donate.

OTHER INFORMATION

It’s difficult for many of us to keep our emotions in check during this trying time. Experts say it’s okay to feel grief, or whatever else you’re feeling right now. Here’s how to process your feelings and adjust to this new normal.

Facebook is expanding a feature that will help local and health agencies reach people with urgent messages about the coronavirus. The tech giant said it is committed to making sure all of its users have access to accurate information across all of its apps, including Facebook, WhatsApp, Messenger and Instagram. Facebook is also offering millions of dollars in grants to small business owners in the Bay Area. The company said 50% of the grants will be prioritized for minority, women and veteran-owned businesses. More information is available here.

Many of us are eating at home more often than we’re used to. We wanted to pass along some helpful tips on extending the life of groceries during the pandemic.

TIP OF THE DAY

This isn’t a hoax- encourage your students to play video games to help stop the spread of the coronavirus. The WHO and more than a dozen video game companies have launched #PlayApartTogether, to encourage everyone to practice social distancing, while staying connected through video games.