April 23, 2020 – COVID-19 Update No. 29

STATE AND NATIONAL GUIDANCE/EXECUTIVE ORDERS/NEWS

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.) You can find more information on California’s COVID-19 website.

The governor today said student loan debt collection is on pause for the next 90 days. Gov. Newsom said 21 of the 24 largest student loan servicers have agreed not to charge late fees, fines or put down bad credit marks for student loan holders. The governor also signed an executive order prohibiting most debt collectors from garnishing federal stimulus checks from many Californians. The executive order does not extend to people who owe child support, spousal support or crime victim compensation. Newsom also said yesterday was the deadliest day in California for coronavirus-related deaths; 115 people lost their lives across the state yesterday.

You can watch the full update here. [Please note: the broadcast begins around the 4:45 mark.]

Gov. Newsom will also be on the next edition of 60 Minutes on Sunday, April 26. He will discuss how he made the decision to shut down California in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and how the state turned to the tech industry to use the computing power of artificial intelligence to help map the spread of the disease.

The House just passed the $484 billion bill that promises more money for small businesses, hospitals and testing to battle the coronavirus. The Senate passed the bill earlier this week and it now goes to President Trump, who said he will sign it.

More than 4.4 million Americans filed for unemployment last week. Roughly 26 million people have filed for jobless benefits in the past five weeks.

A new poll from the Associated Press shows few Americans trust President Trump’s information on the COVID-19 pandemic.

Deaf advocates are calling for sign language interpreters at President Trump’s coronavirus updates, saying the lack of interpreters isn’t just an inconvenience but could be dangerous to the majority of deaf people.
SYSTEM GUIDANCE
The Chancellor’s Office is working to keep the system informed during this uncertain time. We encourage all staff, faculty and administrators to regularly check the Chancellor’s Office COVID-19 resource page for ongoing guidance, announcements and updates.

ONLINE INSTRUCTION
The California Virtual Campus-Online Education Initiative (CVC-OEI) offers a number of online events to continue to help faculty and staff with the transition to virtual learning. Upcoming seminars include:

Connecting with Students: Why Regular Effective Contact Matters
Maintaining regular effective contact with students in your online course is critical to their retention and success. This one-hour webinar will look at why regular effective contact is important, explore tools and best practices for keeping connected with students and discuss strategies for fostering student-to-student connections online. This webinar is on Friday, April 24 from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. Register at this link.

CVC-OEI also continues to host weekly drop-in hours with its instructional design team. You can find all upcoming events on the CVC-OEI Events page.

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

RESOURCES
Due to ongoing concerns surrounding privacy during Zoom calls, we wanted to pass along more best practices before your next virtual meeting.

Zoom Security
- Never download Zoom from any third-party sources which may attempt to provide a malware infected Zoom client.
- Do not use Facebook or any other social media site to sign in (it is a poor security practice and dramatically increases the amount of personal data Zoom has access to).
- Only download trusted Zoom clients from: https://zoom.us/download.
- Always auto-update your local Zoom client when prompted. This is imperative to ensure all the latest security features are available.

Sensitive Data
- Always be careful and refrain from discussing or sharing sensitive topics involving your agency when a third-party organization is hosting a meeting. Anything that is shared is controlled by the third-party meeting hosts.
- Be aware that meetings initiated by other hosts can be recorded. The recordings may be shared by meeting organizers and therefore no longer in your agency’s control.
- While in a Zoom session, if you see a red recording icon appearing on the Zoom session screen that means the meeting organizer or attending is recording.
- Ensure that host and all invitees are aware the sessions is being recorded. If participants are aware that the session is required to be recorded, participants must refrain from sharing sensitive topics with individuals who are not authorized. These recorded sessions can be shared by meeting organizers and are sometimes inadvertently shared publically.

Video Teleconferencing with Vendors & Third-Party Attendees:
When conducting Zoom meetings that involves vendors, third-party organizations or participants, consider:
- Disabling the option for others to “Join Before Host” as this reduces opportunity for uninvited participants.
- Do not use Personal Meeting ID for public meetings.
- Requiring a password to join in and do not reuse passwords for future meetings.
- Enabling a waiting room.
- Authenticating attendees.
- Control screen sharing.
- Disabling private chat to avoid disturbance.
- For large meetings, please consider doing webinars, which allow only anticipated attendees to speak.

The California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office and the Center for Urban Education are offering a six-part webinar series to provide strategies for faculty and administrators to exercise agency on behalf of the most vulnerable students. Webinars will be recorded and posted on the Vision Resource Center. The second webinar is:

Equity-Minded Online Teaching: Using Canvas as a Model
Thursday, April 30, 2020 from 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.
Professor Jennifer Ortiz will illustrate how to use Canvas with an equity mindset. She will provide examples of techniques and strategies which can be easily applied in any course. For example, she will show participants the video message she uses to welcome students into her class. This session will also have a focus on the implementation of AB705. Register at this link.

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.
STUDENT SUPPORTS

Please encourage your students to visit StayEnrolled.com to get the latest information and updates related to financial aid, transfer and career education. Current and prospective students can also get connected with their local college to find out specific resources and support services available as well as enroll in their local community college.

The California Student Aid Commission has put together a list of resources available for foster youth students, including information on Cal Grant B Award, Students with Dependent Children Program, and Chafee ETV. CSAC also has a detailed Q&A section to help students and institutions navigate the financial aid process during this pandemic.

Please encourage your student, and anyone in need, to reach out for help in this troubling time. The California Youth Crisis line runs 24 hours a day, seven days a week: 800-843-5200. The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline provides confidential assistance to anyone in crisis and their loved ones through a live chat and free 24-hour hotline at 800-273-8255. You can also text the Crisis Text Line at 741741. Our LGBTQ students can also contact the Trevor Project by calling 1-866-488-7386 or text START to 678678 for 24/7 information. The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender National Hotline is available from 1:00 – 9:00 p.m. at 1-800-273-8255. Or call or text the Victims of Crime Resource Center at 1-800-842-8467 for help.

HOW TO HELP

The Foundation for California Community Colleges, in partnership with the California Community Colleges, has launched an effort to provide emergency aid, technology, connectivity and other essential supports to students. Click here for more on ways to support students through this campaign.

Many of us want to help right now but aren’t sure the best way to go about it. The new Californians For All website will match interested volunteers with high-need opportunities to safely serve their communities.

OTHER INFORMATION

Thousands of Dreamers are health care workers who are risking their lives on the front lines right now, and fear they could soon face deportation.

More than half of Americans think day-to-day life in the nation will be permanently changed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a new poll from CBS News.

Sonoma County has launched a warm line to support community members experiencing emotional stress and anxiety during the COVID-19 pandemic. Any Sonoma County resident can call any day of the week from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. to speak to a trained professional. Service in Spanish is available. The number is (707)565-2652.

TIP OF THE DAY

Have questions about COVID-19? The Association of Schools & Programs of Public Health, or ASPPH, is hosting a webinar called Coffee with a Doctor: All Your Coronavirus Questions Answered, moderated by Dr. Hala Madanat, director and professor for the San Diego State University School of Public Health. The webinar is Monday, April 27 at 10:00 a.m. Register at this link.

Did you get this from someone else? Sign up to receive the daily COVID-19 Special Update under ‘Subscribe and Connect.’