



August 26, 2020 – COVID-19 Update No. 91



Los Angeles Southwest College's certified nursing assistants were back on campus last week to fulfill the hands-on work from this past spring semester's class that was halted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The students maintained safety measures by social distancing with caps, gowns and masks, all in a scrubbed environment. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the CNA experience is in high demand and these students are on track to move from the classroom right to their career. (Photo courtesy of Los Angeles Southwest College)

The COVID-19 Special Update publishes on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Please see highlighted note below with corrected webinar time.



STATE AND NATIONAL GUIDANCE/EXECUTIVE ORDERS/NEWS

Gov. Gavin Newsom today gave an update on the COVID-19 pandemic and the [deadly wildfires](#) burning across the state.

Among the headlines from today's update:

- The governor [announced a new partnership](#) with PerkinElmer to increase testing capacity ahead of the upcoming flu season. Newsom said the deal will add up to 150,000 COVID-19 diagnostic tests per day with a guaranteed turnaround time of 24-48 hours. The new tests are expected to be rolled out in the next 10 weeks.
- California now has [679,099 confirmed cases of COVID-19](#), resulting in 12,407 deaths. The number of COVID-related deaths increased by 1.2 percent from Monday's total of 12,257.
- The state has performed 10.8 million tests; the rate of positive tests over the past 14 days is 6.1 percent.
- The state has seen an 18% decrease in ICU use and a 17% decrease in hospitalizations over the past 14 days.
- Newsom announced new reopening guidelines for some businesses in California will be released on Friday and will address concerns of local health officials.
- The governor said there are now 700 fires burning in California. Statewide more than 1.3 million acres are burning. In the past 24 hours, there have been 423 lightning strikes and 50 new fires, which have been contained. This [satellite imagery](#) shows how the fires are unfolding.

[You can watch today's update here](#) or on Gov. Newsom's [Twitter page](#) and the [California Governor Facebook page](#). Find more information on the state's response to the COVID-19 pandemic on [California's COVID-19 website](#). Stay informed on the wildfire season with [CalOES](#), [CAL FIRE](#) and [ListosCA](#).

The California Senate [canceled its session for the day](#) after a positive COVID-19 test.

The state on Tuesday [released new guidelines for schools](#) to prioritize opening for small groups of children with disabilities, those who have special needs, are English language learners, at-risk students or students who need access to the internet or other devices for distance learning.

The [CDC this week](#) released updated guidelines that coronavirus testing is not necessary for people who have been in close contact with infected people, a move that has sparked a wave of confusion and criticism across the country. Gov. Newsom, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo and Washington Gov. Jay Inslee today all publicly rejected the new testing guidelines.

The number of COVID-19 cases in the U.S. have now [topped 5.8 million](#), with more than 179,000 deaths. Coronavirus infections among children in the United States have [jumped by more than 20%](#) since the beginning of August.

As students return to colleges and universities across the country, the New York Times has put together [this tracker](#) showing where infections are appearing.



SYSTEM GUIDANCE/NEWS

The Chancellor's Office is committed to keeping everyone informed during this uncertain time. We encourage administrators, faculty, staff and students to regularly check the [Chancellor's Office COVID-19 resource page](#) and the [Chancellor's Office Communications to Colleges section](#) for ongoing executive orders, guidance memos and announcements. 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.



BEST PRACTICES

Chancellor Eloy Ortiz Oakley and Executive Vice Chancellor for Educational Services and Support Marty J. Alvarado will participate in a conversation with [Jobs for the Future](#) to discuss efforts to increase equity in the California Community Colleges and the system's response to the COVID-19 crisis. The virtual discussion is tomorrow, Thursday, August 27 at 1:00 p.m. [Register at this link](#).

We invite you to join the biweekly [Chancellor's Office System Webinars](#) as we pivot our focus from providing COVID-19 related updates, toward tools and resources to make progress on the *Vision for Success*. Our webinars will continue to feature campus leaders and best practices from colleges and districts. **The next webinar is scheduled for Wednesday, September 2 from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.**

ICYMI: College practitioners can find a recording of the previous system webinar [at this link](#) or on the [Vision Resource Center](#). The webinar served as a follow up to the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Call to Action and featured California community college leaders presenting structural changes, tools and dialogue to help campuses prioritize an anti-racist campus culture.

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. You can find all upcoming events on the [CVC-OEI Events page](#). For online instruction support requests, please contact [CVC-OEI](#).



STUDENT SUPPORTS

We know students are looking for extra support during this trying time. We have compiled a list of mental health and other support services available to students and we'll continue to share them on a daily basis.

- With new COVID-19 measures, it's now easier than ever for eligible California community college students to sign up and receive FREE money every month from CalFresh to help buy groceries. The average eligible student receives \$150 each month and it only takes a couple of minutes to apply. Call 1-877-847-3663 (FOOD) or [click here](#) to fill out an application.
- If students have **Medi-Cal** and are in need of mental health services, they can call the number on their health plan membership card, or call their [local county mental health line](#). For help finding what services are covered, call the [Medi-Cal Managed Care and Mental Health Office of the Ombudsman](#) at [888-452-8609](#) Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- If you are concerned about a family in need of food or assistance, or you need resources yourself, call [211](#), contact your local non-profit [Family Resource Center](#), or apply for public benefits, which may include health care, cash aid, and food and nutrition assistance, through your county's [Social Services or Health and Human Services department](#).
- Resources, tools, and trainings regarding health, mental health, wellness, basic needs and more designed for California community college students, faculty and staff are available on the [California Community Colleges Health & Wellness website](#). Specific COVID-19 resources are available on the home page.
- [Wellness Central](#) is a free online health and wellness resource that is available 24/7 in your space at your pace.

- [Each Mind Matters](#) offers resources, tools and activation kits for mental health.
- The California Youth Crisis line runs 24 hours a day, seven days a week: [800-843-5200](tel: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](tel:800-273-8255). You can also text COURAGE to the Crisis Text Line at [741741](tel:741741).
- Our LGBTQ students can also contact the Trevor Project by calling [1-866-488-7386](tel: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](tel:1-800-273-8255). Or call or text the Victims of Crime Resource Center at [1-800-842-8467](tel:1-800-842-8467) for help.



ITEMS OF INTEREST

Many of us are still working from home and [wondering what life at the office will look like](#) once it reopens. Chances are, the office you once knew is likely to look vastly different.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, preparing for wildfires might be a little different this year. Here is some helpful information on [protecting yourself from wildfire smoke](#) during the pandemic.

As the world waits for a COVID-19 vaccine, researchers at UCSF are working on a different approach: [harnessing the power of tiny llama antibodies](#) to stop the coronavirus from infecting humans.

TIP OF THE DAY

Looking for a new job? Polish up your resume by taking keywords from the job posting and inserting them into your cover letter and resume to set you apart from rest. [Learn more resume writing tips to help you land that next job.](#)

[More Tips of the Day](#)

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



Brought to you by the Chancellor's Office, Office of Communications and Marketing
1102 Q Street, Sacramento, CA 95811 | 916.445.8752