Gov. Gavin Newsom today announced the launch of the Blueprint for a Safer Economy, which assigns each county a color based on coronavirus cases and positive tests. Each color dictates when and how businesses can safely operate.

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

**STATE AND NATIONAL GUIDANCE/EXECUTIVE ORDERS/NEWS**

Gov. Gavin Newsom today gave an update on the COVID-19 pandemic. (The updates are streamed live at noon 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.)

Among the headlines from today’s update:

- The governor today announced new reopening guidelines for businesses and schools. Under the new color-coded ranking system, which replaces the county monitoring watch list, counties will fall into four categories depending on the number of cases per 100,000 residents and the percentage of tests that come back positive.
  - The color categories — purple, red, orange and yellow — will determine how much of a county’s economy can be open. Most California counties are in the purple (widespread) category.

- Newsom and California Health and Human Services Secretary Dr. Mark Ghaly today announced a refresh of the state’s COVID-19 website that will allow users to easily find out what businesses and activities can open in your county, and how.

- California now has 688,858 confirmed cases of COVID-19, resulting in 12,690 deaths. The number of COVID-related deaths increased by 1.1 percent from Wednesday’s total.

- The state has performed 11 million tests. The rate of positive tests over the last 14 days is 6.0 percent.

You can watch today’s update here.

Unemployed Californians are set to receive extra $300 in weekly jobless benefits. The benefit is expected to start the week of September 7 but will be rolled out in phases.

A major poultry producer in Central California has been ordered to temporarily shut down by local authorities in the wake of a deadly coronavirus outbreak.

The Food and Drug Administration this week authorized the first rapid coronavirus test that doesn’t need any special computer equipment to get results.

The coronavirus death toll in the United States has surpassed 181,000, while 5.9 million cases have been reported.

Children and young people are far less likely to get severe cases of COVID-19 infection, according to new research released this week.
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.

ICYMI: Chancellor Eloy Ortiz Oakley and Executive Vice Chancellor for Educational Services and Support Marty J. Alvarado participated 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. Watch the discussion here.

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. 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.

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. 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 COURAGE to 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.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

A Nevada man appears to be the nation’s first confirmed case of COVID-19 reinfection, researchers say.
The new school year during the pandemic brings new stresses for kids. Here’s what parents should do, according to experts.

The question a lot of parents are wanting the answer to: How to reopen schools safely during COVID-19?

Another mystery of the novel coronavirus: Research suggests it’s deadlier for men than women and experts aren’t sure why.

TIP OF THE DAY
The fall semester is fast approaching, and so are enrollment deadlines. To ensure you are ready for the start of classes, make sure you are enrolled on time by contacting a California community college near you.

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.’