The Google homepage is promoting the state’s “Wear a Mask” public awareness campaign to help slow the spread of COVID-19.

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

STATE AND NATIONAL GUIDANCE/EXECUTIVE ORDERS/NEWS
California Attorney General Xavier Becerra, California Community Colleges Chancellor Eloy Ortiz Oakley and California State University Chancellor Timothy White on Thursday announced the State of California is filing a lawsuit challenging the Trump Administration’s unlawful policy that threatens to exacerbate the spread of COVID-19 and exile hundreds of thousands of college students studying in the United States through the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP). Read Chancellor Oakley’s statement on the lawsuit here. The University of California on Wednesday announced its intention to sue the federal government over the new guidelines.

Gov. Gavin Newsom did not hold a news conference today but said he will hold an update on Monday, July 13.

California has 304,297 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 6,851 deaths. The rate of positive tests over the last 14 days is 7.4%. The state record 149 deaths on Wednesday, the highest single-day number since the pandemic began.

The governor today did announce, along with CDCR, that as many as 8,000 prisoners will be released early in response to the pandemic. A 12-week credit will apply “to everyone in CDCR custody” except those who are on death row, serving life-without-parole or who have a serious rules violation between March 1 and July 5.

Two more counties today were added to the state’s watch list, which now stands at 28 counties. Sutter and Placer are the new counties to make the list.

(You can find the latest information on the state’s response to the pandemic on California’s COVID-19 website.)

State legislative leaders announced a new session return date, after a half-dozen people who work at the Capitol recently tested positive for the coronavirus. Lawmakers will now return on July 27.

The union representing public school teachers in Los Angeles on Friday urged the country’s second-biggest school district to keep campuses closed when classes resume next month. This comes after the CDC said it will not release updated school reopening guidelines after all, though it did promise more direction soon.

"Not to be hyperbolic about it — it really is the perfect storm and [an] infectious disease and public health person’s worst nightmare. It’s a spectacularly transmissible virus. The efficiency with which this transmits is really striking.” Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation’s top infectious disease expert, did not mince words while speaking at an event on Thursday. He said he hoped the nation could come together to see [the pandemic] through.
The California Community College Athletic Association is moving all sports, even football, to the spring. The decision announced Thursday was one of three potential scenarios approved by the CCCAA Board of Directors last month.

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 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.

College practitioners can find this week’s COVID-19 biweekly webinar recording, as well as past recordings, and other COVID-19 information 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.

The Chancellor’s Office is sharing a webinar series that will allow all of us to continue learn and connect anti-racism, student success and equity. Please join the Black Minds Matter webinar series beginning July 16th for a free five-part series hosted by Dr. J. Luke Wood and Dr. Donna Y. Ford. The series will include members from all education segments throughout the country (e.g. K-12, community colleges, four-year universities) and address the experiences and realities of Black students in education. Black Minds Matter is a national movement that draws parallels between the policing of Black lives and schooling of Black minds. The webinar series will balance a discussion of issues facing Black students as well as offer research-based strategies for improving their success. Register at this link.

The Public Policy Institute of California will hold a conversation with Chancellor Oakley, UC President Janet Napolitano and CSU Chancellor Timothy White to address the challenges California’s systems of higher education are facing in the wake of COVID-19. The discussion is Friday, July 17 from 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Register at this link.

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

➤ 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.

As cases surge, governors across the country are facing growing pressure from public health experts and local leaders to reimpose stay-at-home orders as the only way to regain control of coronavirus outbreaks that threaten to overwhelm hospitals and send the death count rocketing.

The Food and Drug Administration issued a warning against using two dozen hand sanitizers that could contain toxic wood alcohol.

Bill Nye, everyone’s favorite science guy, breaks down the reason why we should all wear a face mask.
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.

TIP OF THE DAY
In addition to COVID-19 related layoffs continuing to impact many students and their family’s ability to go to work, there are also many new questions; like what people should do after they lose their job or have their hours or pay reduced. The California Labor and Workforce Development Agency has created a list of resources for both employees and workers, here.

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.’

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