



California  
Community  
Colleges

# COVID-19 Update

July 17, 2020 – COVID-19 Update No. 74



The Rio Hondo College Roadrunner Hand Crew 77 has been activated by the U.S. Forest Service to assist with national wildfire needs as we head into wildfire season. The Rio Hondo College Fire Academy says the highly trained firefighters continue to step up to support their community despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

***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 state's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. (All 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 announced [guidelines for K-12 public schools](#):

- In counties on the state's [COVID-19 watch list](#), schools can only open remotely. Other counties must meet criteria to reopen in person, and counties must be off the watch list for 14 days to resume classes in person.
- All school staff and students in third grade and above must wear masks. Schools must also observe general COVID-19 prevention protocols like temperature checks, handwashing stations and social distancing.
- If a student tests positive, classmates and staff will have to go on a 14-day quarantine. If multiple classrooms/cohorts or more than 5% of the school tests positive, it will need to go on or return to distance learning. A district will return to distance learning if more than 25% of their schools are closed within a 14-day period.
- The state is investing \$5 billion in additional funding to enhance learning during the pandemic to promote a more rigorous distance learning program and to address the digital divide across the state.

Among the other headlines from today's update:

- California now has [366,164 confirmed cases](#) of COVID-19 and 7,475 deaths, an increase of 1.8% from the day before.
- The state has performed nearly 6.1 million tests and the test positivity rate over the past 14 days is 7.4%.
- San Francisco is now the 32<sup>nd</sup> county on the state's watch list, and the city is now pausing reopening plans indefinitely to slow the spread of coronavirus.

[You can watch the full update here.](#) (Please note: it begins around the 2:15 mark.)

Gov. Newsom on Thursday [announced the availability of \\$600 million in funding](#) for Homekey, the next phase in the state's response protecting Californians experiencing homelessness who are at high risk for serious illness from COVID-19.

Cal/OSHA on Thursday urged all employers in California to follow the state's COVID-19 [workplace safety and health guidance](#) to ensure their workers are protected from the virus. The guidance is designed to help employers comply with obligations to implement effective measures to train and protect employees.

The state [added a record 558,000 jobs in June](#) as more businesses reopened. However, the gains announced today are expected to be short-lived because of new closures put into effect in July as the coronavirus surged.

Nationally, more than [77,000 new cases](#) were reported Thursday, beating the old single-day record by nearly 10,000.

A new [Washington Post/ABC News poll](#) finds President Trump faces rising disapproval and widespread distrust on his response to the coronavirus pandemic.

The Centers for Disease Control today said its [delaying the release of updated guidance](#) on how to safely reopen schools. The guidance was due this week; the CDC now says it will be released by the end of the month.

[Millions of Americans' unemployment payments will abruptly shrink soon](#). The \$600 weekly unemployment stimulus, granted through the Cares Act, is scheduled to end July 31 if Congress doesn't find a solution in the next week to extend emergency benefits.



#### 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](#) 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: PBS KVIE this week aired a new episode of [Inside California Education: Community Colleges](#) that explores what California community colleges are doing to help their communities and keep students learning during the ongoing pandemic. [The episode is posted online here.](#)



#### WEBINARS/ONLINE CONVERSATIONS

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. The Black Minds Matter webinar series, hosted by Dr. J. Luke Wood and Dr. Donna Y. Ford, 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. The next session Thursday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 11:00 a.m. on [YouTube](#).

The Public Policy Institute of California today held a conversation with Chancellor Oakley, UC President Janet Napolitano and CSU Chancellor Timothy White on addressing the challenges California's systems of higher education are facing in the wake of COVID-19. The conversation will later be posted on the [PPIC website](#).

UC Berkeley's Center for Studies in Higher Education today hosted a panel on the challenges and opportunities California Community Colleges face in responding to COVID-19. The conversation, moderated by Center Director George Blumenthal, included panelists Chancellor Oakley; Community College League of California President & CEO Larry Galizio; Foothill-De Anza Community College District Chancellor Judy Miner; and UC Berkeley Vice Chancellor for Budget & Finance James A. Hyatt. [Watch the panel here.](#)



#### STUDENT SUPPORTS

[John Burton Advocates for Youth](#) on Thursday presented a very informative webinar called *Combating Summer Melt Amid a Pandemic*. This webinar provides concrete suggestions to how adult supporters can support foster youth to stay on track with their college plans during these crucial coming months. Topics covered include strategies for managing mental health needs, securing housing access and navigating the nuts and bolts of matriculation. [View the webinar and supporting documents here.](#)

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.



#### OTHER INFORMATION

Dr. Sara Goldrick-Rab, founder of [The Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice](#) at Temple University, was recently featured on PBS NewsHour to share her insights how community colleges are grappling with the pandemic and social unrest. [Watch the full interview here](#).

As coronavirus cases surge across the U.S., Latino communities are suffering especially high rates of infections. CBS News is taking an in-depth look in a new special report called "*Pandemia: Latinos in Crisis*." Among the topics: how low-income Latino students without Wi-Fi [resorted to doing homework in parking lots](#) to access public hotspots.



#### 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

With so much changing on a weekly basis, you may have questions about how COVID-19 is affecting where and if you can shop, travel or even go to the DMV. To get up-to-date information, visit the [Stay Home Q&A](#) from the official State of California COVID-19 website provided by the Governor's Office.

[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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