July 22, 2020 – COVID-19 Update No. 76

The California Community Colleges has answered the call during this unprecedented time. Watch this video to see how our system administrators, staff, faculty, students and alumni have risen to the challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic and the national reckoning with systemic racism and injustice.

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.

Among the headlines from today’s update:

- California now has a record high number of cases:
  - Single day cases: 12,807;
  - Seven-day average: 9,420;
  - Total cases statewide: 413,576, the highest number in the nation. There have been 7,870 deaths.

- The state has performed 6.6 million COVID-19 tests, including more than 127,000 tests on Tuesday. The seven-day test positivity rate is 7.6%.

- The state is extending its contract with manufacturer BYD to buy additional personal protective equipment (PPE), including 120 million N95 masks and 300 million surgical masks. Cal OES, the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services, is now preparing to send PPE to the 116 California community colleges.

- Butte County is now the 35th county on the state’s watch list.

You can watch the full update here. (Please note: the update begins around the 6:05 mark.)

California Health and Human Services Secretary Dr. Mark Ghaly said Tuesday the state has too many cases to realistically investigate and trace each new infection. The state has trained about 3,600 state workers to help counties with their contact tracing programs, though nearly two-thirds of those workers have not yet been assigned.

The Senate is expected to unveil a $1 trillion coronavirus relief bill, which would likely include another round of stimulus payments and money for schools. But, deep divisions between Senate Republicans and the White House over the proposed inclusion of a payroll tax cut could stand in the way.

President Trump on Tuesday warned the pandemic will probably “get worse before it gets better,” and urged Americans to wear a mask to help stop the spread.

The Trump administration will pay Pfizer nearly $2 billion for a December delivery of 100 million doses of a COVID-19 vaccine the pharmaceutical company is developing. It’s the administration’s largest investment yet in a vaccine that has not been proven effective.
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 today’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 Governor’s Office recently launched its “Wear A Mask” campaign in an effort to promote public awareness about the importance of wearing protective masks to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office recognizes the importance of getting this information to students and families and has partnered with the Governor’s Office to create co-branded creative assets that can be used to help spread the word. A Zoom background (and instructions on co-branding), website buttons, social media graphics and digital banners are now available in the Vision Resource Center.

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 23rd at 11:00 a.m. on YouTube.

The A2MEND Organization will moderate a nationwide discussion across racial lines to discuss anti-blackness and its various impacts on US society. New York Times- Best Selling Authors and renowned scholars Dr. Ibram X. Kendi (How to be an Anti-Racist), Tim Wise (Dear White America) and Dr. Marc Lamont Hill (The Classroom and the Cell) will present on challenges and solutions to equip educators with the knowledge to ensure that Black lives more than matter on their respective campuses. The webinar is Saturday, August 1 from 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. The cost is $75. Register at this link.

SAVE THE DATE: The Chancellor’s Office next month will hold an online forum with the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) leadership. The webinar will take place on Thursday, August 6 from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. Agenda and Zoom information is to come.

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 888-452-8669 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.

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 1-866-488-7286 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

A new study out today from UC Berkeley shows the childcare system in California is on the brink of collapse.

A new Associated Press poll shows only about 1 in 10 Americans think daycare centers, preschools or K-12 schools should open this fall without restrictions.

Laboratories across the U.S. are buckling under a surge of coronavirus tests, creating long processing delays that experts say are actually undercutting the pandemic response.

A new study confirms yet again that coronavirus outbreaks could be stopped if everyone used masks, washed their hands and kept apart from other.

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 new COVID-19 measures, it’s now easier than ever for eligible California community college students to sign up and receive money every month 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.

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