The Cuyamaca College Child Development Center (CDC) recently hosted a socially-distanced “Crossing the Bridge” ceremony for students moving on to kindergarten. At the end of each academic year, children leaving the Center and moving on to kindergarten are invited to cross over a wooden bridge on the CDC playground to symbolize their transition from preschool to kindergarten. This year’s ceremony was different, but no less important.

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

STATE AND NATIONAL GUIDANCE/EXECUTIVE ORDERS/NEWS
Gov. Gavin Newsom did not hold a news conference today. You can find more information on the state’s response to the pandemic on California’s COVID-19 website.

Below are the latest numbers:
California now has 493,588 confirmed cases of COVID-19, resulting in 9,005 deaths. The number of COVID-19 related deaths across the state increased by 1.1% from Wednesday. The state today also reported the first death of a minor from COVID-19; the teen lived in the Central Valley, a region seeing a spike in cases.

The state has performed more than 7.8 million tests. The rate of positive tests over the past 14 days has decreased slightly to 7.2%.

Latinx Californians continue to be disproportionately impacted by the coronavirus across the state, making up 57% of all total cases.

Gov. Newsom today did sign an executive order, extending the deadline for county assessment appeals boards to issue a decision on pending tax assessment appeals filed on or before March 4.

The governor late Wednesday announced a series of actions to better serve workers that have experienced job loss during the COVID-19 pandemic. Among the actions is the creation of a strike team that will set a path for reforms at the Employment Development Department.

A federal ban on evictions and the additional $600 in weekly unemployment benefits are both set to expire today, as Congress adjourned for the weekend without coming to any deal on the programs or another emergency stimulus package. The White House, breaking with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, did today say it’s willing to work with Democrats on a stimulus package deal that leaves out Senate Republican legislation aimed at protecting employers, hospitals and schools from coronavirus-related lawsuits.

The Trump administration has refused to extend a food-stamp program waiver past August, meaning that despite the ongoing pandemic, families in need will once again be required to prove their income or risk losing their benefits.

The nation’s top infectious disease expert, Dr. Anthony Fauci, today told lawmakers he remains confident that a coronavirus vaccine will be ready by early next year. This comes as the United States announced a $2.1 billion vaccine deal with two European drugmakers on Friday — the government’s largest contract yet as part of Operation Warp Speed.

Numbers released Thursday show the pandemic sent the U.S. economy plunging by a record-shattering 32.9% annual rate last quarter and is still causing damage across the country. The news comes as another 1.4 million Americans last week filed for unemployment benefits. Roughly 30 million Americans are receiving some form of jobless aid.
STUDENT SUPPORTS

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.

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.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

A new CDC report suggests children of all ages may be susceptible to coronavirus infections and may also spread it to others.

Rent’s due, again: Monthly anxieties deepen as aid falls off.

'We thought it was just a respiratory virus. We were wrong.' This article from UCSF offers a fascinating look at what experts have learned about COVID-19, and what about it remains a mystery.

TIP OF THE DAY

As many prospective and returning students begin thinking about the next step in their higher education journey, many questions can arise. For answers to some common frequently asked questions, like what the community colleges are doing to address COVID-19 related health concerns, visit the Chancellor’s Office frequently asked questions.

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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