



California
Community
Colleges

COVID-19 Update

May 22, 2020 – COVID-19 Update No. 50



The San Diego Community College District has produced a new TV commercial entitled “[Heroes Are Made Here](#).” The 30-second spot, featuring each of the district’s presidents, highlights the district’s role in training local first responders, health care professionals and other essential workers, while acknowledging everyone in San Diego who has helped the community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Today and every day, the California Community Colleges honors those who have given their lives for our country. We wish everyone a safe and relaxing Memorial Day Weekend. The Daily Update will resume publication on Tuesday, May 26.



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 marked the holiday weekend by visiting the Yountville Veterans Home, the largest facility in the U.S. for housing American veterans. He applauded California Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Dr. Vito Imbasciani and his staff for keeping the state’s more than 2,000 veterans who live in such housing, protected from the coronavirus. To date, throughout the state’s eight homes for veterans, just three patients have tested positive for COVID-19. Newsom said Dr. Imbasciani led an effort for stringent protocols and guidelines at veterans homes that has kept the rate of infections extremely low.

Newsom also said that on Monday, he will release two new sets of safe reopening guidelines: one for churches and other houses of worship, and another for the film and television industry. [President Trump today said](#) that his administration would declare houses of worship, “essential services” and allow them to reopen. He said he would “override” governors who did not agree with his decision, though the president does not have the authority to do so.

Gov. Newsom today also [announced the launch of California Connected](#), the state’s comprehensive contact tracing program and public awareness campaign. The state plans to launch 10,000 contact tracers statewide as part of its plan to reopen California. More than 500 individuals have been trained under the new contact tracing program, and more than 300 are being trained this week. [Visit the California Connected website here](#).

[You can watch the full update here](#). (Please note: the update begins around the 7:25 mark.)

[Newsom on Thursday announced he moved \\$1.8 billion](#) from the state’s dwindling coffers to pay for more protective gear and extra hospital beds to aid the state’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The governor believes the federal government will reimburse the state for 75% of the spending.

California’s unemployment rate in April jumped to 15.5%, as the state lost an estimated 2.3 million jobs. The highest unemployment rate during the Great Recession was 12.3%. [The Employment Development Department has a full breakdown](#) of the state’s unemployment numbers. California is certainly not alone: new data shows nearly every state had [historic unemployment levels](#) last month.

The California State Archives has announced its starting a “[California COVID-19 Archive](#)” to document the stories and experiences of Californians during the pandemic. All Californians are invited to [share their stories here](#).



SYSTEM GUIDANCE/NEWS

On March 16, 2020 the Board of Governors granted the Chancellor additional authority to help colleges continue to provide educational services to students including the ability to temporarily suspend regulations adopted by the Board of Governors and local rules and regulations. Chancellor Eloy Ortiz Oakley on Thursday released this [executive order](#) and [guidance memo](#) to provide emergency guidance for students and colleges engaged in cooperative work experience education programs. These documents can also be found on the [Chancellor's Office Communications to Colleges](#) section of the [Chancellor's Office COVID-19 resource page](#). We encourage administrators, faculty, staff and students to regularly check this page for ongoing 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 past COVID-19 Weekly Webinar 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.



ONLINE INSTRUCTION

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](#).



RESOURCES

The California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office and the Center for Urban Education are offering a [six-part webinar series](#) to provide strategies for faculty and administrators to exercise agency on behalf of the most vulnerable students. Webinars will be recorded and posted on the Vision Resource Center. The sixth webinar is:

How to Express Care with a focus on Racial Equity

Thursday, May 28, 2020 from 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

This session is informed by common assumptions that racially minoritized students are deficient. Often times instructor's and administrators' responses imply that "racial equity" means to provide interventions that "fix students." This session will critically address how to provide authentic care to students with a focus on racial equity. [Register at this link](#).



STUDENT SUPPORTS

We know students are looking for support during this trying time. We have compiled a list of mental health support available to students and will 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.



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](#).



OTHER INFORMATION

Businesses are open but it’s hardly business as usual. [A new poll released today](#) shows many people aren’t in any hurry to venture out to restaurants, bars, gyms and theaters.

[The CDC updated its guidance on how COVID-19 spreads](#). It now says it spreads easily from person-to-person contact but does not spread easily in other ways, like from touching a contaminated surface.

TIP OF THE DAY

Looking to head outdoors this holiday weekend? [Many California State Parks are reopening, with new rules](#). The state asks you follow these [new guidelines](#) as you enjoy all our beautiful state has to offer. Perhaps most important: plan ahead and stay local.

[More Tips of the Day](#)

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

