May 26, 2020 – COVID-19 Update No. 51

Rio Hondo College hosted a commencement car parade to celebrate this year’s graduates after the COVID-19 pandemic canceled graduation ceremonies across the state.

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 daily 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 and the California Department of Health today announced welcome news for many of us: barber shops and hair salons can reopen in many counties, albeit with strict rules. Newsom today also said over the last 14 days, CA has seen a 6.7% decline in hospitalizations and a 0.6% increase in the number of ICU patients, but urged all Californians to stay vigilant and follow health guidelines like wearing masks in public and practicing social distancing.

You can watch the full update here. (Please note: the broadcast begins around the 5:55 mark.)

The California Department of Health on Monday announced the statewide reopening of places of worship for religious services and in-store retail shopping. Under the new guidance, places of worship can hold religious services and funerals that limit attendance to 25% of a building’s capacity – or up to 100 attendees, whichever is lower. Read the full update here.

State Superintendent of Instruction Tony Thurmond will host a virtual media check-in tomorrow, Wednesday, May 27 at 9:30 a.m. on Facebook Live, to provide updates on plans to reopen schools, distance learning and investments needed to bridge the digital divide.

The California DMV announced it will reopen 46 more field offices on Thursday.

As the U.S. closes in on 100,000 COVID-19 deaths, the World Health Organization warns of second coronavirus peak as some states see an uptick of hospitalizations.

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.

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.

The Board of Governors and the Chancellor’s Office have an unwavering commitment to advance equitable and inclusive hiring practices across California’s community colleges. As such, the Chancellor’s Office is hosting a webinar, called Prioritizing Equal Employment Opportunity during COVID-19. The webinar will feature a panel on what California community colleges can do during this period of upheaval and uncertainty to continue to support diversification efforts in hiring and retention. The panel will address the challenges of our current environment, such as virtual interviews, institutional change under crisis, and will also provide recommendation. The webinar is Thursday, May 28 from 10:00 – 11:30. Register at this link.

Zoom has released its latest version, offering upgraded security features.

STUDENT SUPPORTS
The California Department of Public Health announced a specific web page with COVID-19 resources for Spanish speakers and their families.

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
The pandemic is taking its toll on our mental health: New data from the Census Bureau finds a third of Americans now show signs of clinical anxiety or depression.

A new study out of the University of California shows COVID-19 patients in the U.S. tend to endure longer hospital stays and higher rates of ICU admissions.
TIP OF THE DAY

New federal law provides unemployment benefits for self-employed and other workers and adds an additional $600 to weekly benefits. This means that if you’re unemployed, you may be eligible to receive up to an additional $2,400 per month. To determine your eligibility, visit the Career One Stop website.

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.’

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