



California
Community
Colleges

COVID-19 Update

May 4, 2020 – COVID-19 Update No. 36



[Lake Tahoe Community College](#) will play a part in the state of California's efforts to greatly increase coronavirus testing by serving as an appointment-only testing site center.



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 today announced [some long-awaited news](#): many California retail businesses and other low-risk workplaces can reopen on Friday. Modifications must be made but California Department of Public Health Director Sonia Angell said the state is ready to relax some stay-at-home restrictions in part because coronavirus-related hospitalizations had stabilized and because the state had expanded its capacity to handle another potential surge of cases. Newsom said that the reopening of the businesses would require certification by local county health officials and noted that criteria for reopening would differ in different areas.

The governor also announced that UCSF and UCLA are providing a “virtual academy” to recruit and train what Newsom called “disease detectives” to augment those currently working to track and trace contacts of positive COVID-19 cases and substantially expand the state’s current capacity.

[You can watch the full update here.](#) (Please note: the broadcast begins around the 7:45 mark.)

The governor on Friday [signed an executive order](#) that temporarily broadens the capability of counties to enroll people in the CalWORKs program, using various eligibility verification methods. The provisions allow for temporary self-attestation of pregnancy and conditions of eligibility, and waive in-person identification requirements. The executive order also expands the opportunity for individuals to qualify for a limited amount of lump-sum financial assistance instead of receiving CalWORKs, as long as their income is below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level and supports families by suspending the requirement for county welfare departments to consider Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation as income when determining CalWORKs grant amounts.

[Gov. Newsom spoke to Katie Couric](#) about reopening California, and what’s to come for our state over the next weeks and months.

Los Angeles schools [will start on August 18](#) as scheduled, but no decision has been made on whether campuses will reopen for in-person classes or remain digital.



SYSTEM GUIDANCE/NEWS

Vice Chancellor for Educational Services and Support Aisha Lowe today released a [guidance memo](#) for colleges participating in the flexible calendar program on how colleges should address their flexible calendar obligations to reflect changes in instructional improvement activities necessitated by the response to the COVID-19 emergency. This memo is posted in the [Chancellor's Office Communications to Colleges](#) section of the [Chancellor's Office COVID-19 resource page](#). We encourage everyone to routinely check this page for ongoing announcements.

Pasadena City College will move all courses online for the [summer 2020 session](#).



ONLINE INSTRUCTION

The California Community Colleges Accessibility Center will host an Accessibility Office Hours webinar via Zoom on Thursday, May 7 from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. This webinar will offer the opportunity to ask questions and share best practices regarding institutional web and IT accessibility issues. [Find more information here](#).

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 third webinar is:

Being Aware of Learning Opportunities and Constraints Posed by Online Teaching and Moving Towards Anti-Racist Practices

Thursday, May 7, 2020 from 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

This webinar will address the “taken-for-granted” practices and assumptions that shape the online learning environment and ways in which they can be detrimental to the success of minoritized students. For example, many students only have access to a cellular phone and instructors are not considering how the materials they upload may become distorted on a phone. The current circumstances are overwhelming and it is easy for instructors to default to the students who have the know-how to navigate technology. [Register at this link](#).

College practitioners can find COVID-19 resources, information, and community 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.



STUDENT SUPPORTS

For students in the Sacramento area- the City of Sacramento, SacRT and the California State Transportation Agency today started rolling out mobile Wi-Fi Buses in communities with limited high-speed internet access during the COVID-19 pandemic. High-need locations are selected with input from local school districts, community organizations and digital divide research. Schedules and locations are available at the [Wi-Fi Bus website](#).

Please encourage your students to visit [StayEnrolled.com](#) to get the latest information and updates related to financial aid, transfer and career education. 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.

Help is available around the clock for anyone who needs support right now. The California Youth Crisis line runs 24 hours a day, seven days a week: [800-843-5200](#). 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

While California will soon reopen to some extent, [experts say](#) it won't be complete for at least a year or longer.

Three months into the COVID-19 pandemic, [America is on the verge of another health crisis](#): experts say a historic wave of mental health problems is approaching. On Wednesday, a coalition representing more than 250 mental health groups announced it was convening a national response to the problem of pandemic suicide. (Please

remember: The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline provides confidential assistance to anyone in crisis through a live chat and free 24-hour hotline at [800-273-8255](tel:800-273-8255). You can also text the Crisis Text Line at 741741.)

If you're exhausted and unfocused while working from home, you're certainly not alone. [Here's why and how to help](#) combat the stress.

TIP OF THE DAY

Looking for ways to stay connected with friends and family while social distancing? Download the free [Houseparty](#) app to connect with friends and family, play trivia games and enjoy some digital face-to-face interaction.

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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