Working with the City of Santa Ana's COVID-19 testing program, Santa Ana College's (SAC) student nurses are learning how to perform COVID-19 testing on SAC students and employees to expand ways to keep everyone at Santa Ana College, whether they will be on-campus or in a virtual setting, healthy and safe this fall semester. (Photo by Mary Law, Rancho Santiago Community College District.)

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 COVID-19 update today. You can find the latest information on the state’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic on California’s COVID-19 website.

Gov. Newsom on Thursday signed AB 1867, legislation that immediately extends critical paid sick days protections to California’s workforce. The legislation builds on early action to expand paid sick days to employees in the food sector at the beginning of this crisis, and guarantees that every California employee that has been exposed to or tests positive for COVID-19 will have access to paid sick days for the rest of the 2020 calendar year.

California now has 746,191 confirmed cases of COVID-19, resulting in 14,089 deaths. The number of COVID-related deaths increased by 0.8 percent from Wednesday’s total of 13,978. The state has performed 12.4 million coronavirus tests and the rate of positive tests over the last 14 days is down to 4.0 percent.

The emergency unemployment benefits approved by President Trump last month are already running out, leaving millions of Americans without extra support.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation’s top infectious disease expert, today said that while we could have a vaccine by early next year, it could be the end of 2021 before we get back to how our lives were before COVID-19. He also disagreed with President Donald Trump’s assertion that the country is “rounding the corner” on the coronavirus pandemic.

Americans today are mourning the 19th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks amid another national crisis: the COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19’s toll on mental health: The threat to Californians’ mental well-being—which may stem from fear of falling ill, social isolation, job loss or other factors—has raised concerns about a behavioral health crisis in the state. The coronavirus pandemic has also taken a harsh toll on the mental health of young Americans, according to a new poll that finds adults under 35 especially likely to report negative feelings or experience physical or emotional symptoms associated with stress and anxiety.
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 and the Chancellor’s Office Communications to Colleges section 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.

The San Bernardino Community College District today announced its campuses will continue with online learning and remote working for the academic term that begins January 19 through May 25, 2021.

The California State University system on Thursday announced that all 23 CSU campuses will continue with predominantly virtual instruction for academic terms beginning in January 2021.

College practitioners will be able to find a recording of last week’s Chancellor’s Office System Webinar on the Vision Resource Center. We invite you to join us for the biweekly webinars as the Chancellor’s Office turns its focus from providing COVID-19 related updates, toward tools and resources to make progress on the Vision for Success. Our webinars will continue to feature campus leaders and best practices from colleges and districts. The next webinar is scheduled for Wednesday, September 16 from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

The California Virtual Campus-Online Education Initiative (CVC-OEI) has launched an online community of practice (COP) for faculty teaching in fine arts (drawing, painting, ceramics, printmaking, etc.). Included in the COP are discussion prompts tailored to the needs of online art and design instruction to foster the sharing of online teaching examples and resources. It is located within Canvas and open to all California community college faculty. Signing up is easy! Just complete the CCC Visual Arts Faculty Community Sign-Up Form.

As a reminder, the CVC-OEI also has COPs available for the following disciplines:

- online math
- online oral communication
- online science labs
- online foreign languages

If you or someone you know is interested in joining any of the above communities, please email to Bob Nash at bnash@cvc.edu from their college email. In the email, faculty should specify which communities they’d like to join.

You can find all upcoming events on the CVC-OEI Events page. For online instruction support requests, please contact CVC-OEI.

We know students are looking for extra support during this trying time. We have compiled a list of mental health and other support services available to students and we'll continue to share them on a daily basis.

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

- 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
Although young adults are not as likely as older people to suffer serious complications from COVID-19, a new research letter from Harvard University shows a significant number may be at risk for difficult and possibly lasting impacts on their health.

A new study released on COVID-19 research and clinical trials found in all cases that African Americans are underrepresented, despite being disproportionately affected by the virus. The doctor who performed the study said outreach is partly to blame.

Children who caught the coronavirus at day cares and a day camp spread it to their relatives, according to a new report that underscores that kids can bring the germ home and infect others.

TIP OF THE DAY
Netflix has made a rotating selection of their content free, with no sign up or registration required. The current selection includes academy award nominated films like Bird Box, and cultural powerhouses like Stranger Things – check it out here.

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