



California
Community
Colleges

COVID-19 Update

September 21, 2020 – COVID-19 Update No. 101



While most classes at Mt. San Antonio College have shifted online this semester, some are still in-session. Students in this EMT class are socially distant and required to wear masks while on campus. Thank you to all of our students who have transitioned to a new way of learning, both on and off campus.

This will be the final COVID-19 Special Update as the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office transitions to a new publication that will feature a broader range of content focused on advancing the [Vision for Success](#) as well as providing important information related to the pandemic and its impacts on our system. Beginning Thursday, we will distribute the weekly *Vision in Action* newsletter, a collection of important systemwide updates, tools and resources to help everyone in the California Community Colleges serve our 2.1 million students.



STATE AND NATIONAL GUIDANCE/EXECUTIVE ORDERS/NEWS

Gov. Gavin Newsom today gave an update on the COVID-19 pandemic. (The updates are streamed live at noon on Gov. Newsom's [Twitter page](#) and the [California Governor Facebook page](#). Find more information on the state's response to the COVID-19 pandemic on [California's COVID-19 website](#).

Among the headlines from today's update:

California now has [781,694 confirmed cases of COVID-19](#), resulting in 15,018 deaths. The number of COVID-related deaths increased by 0.2% from Saturday's total of 14,987. The state has performed 13.6 million tests; the rate of positive tests decreased to 3.1% over the past 14 days and decreased to 2.8% over the past seven days.

Hospitalizations and ICU admissions are both declining at relatively consistent rates; hospitalizations are down 23% over the past 14 days and ICU admissions are down 25% over the same time period.

State Health and Human Services Director Dr. Mark Ghaly will announce tomorrow which of California's counties can move to a [less-restrictive monitoring level](#), which dictates how more services can reopen. The majority of California counties remain in the most-restrictive purple level, though the governor said many are "right on the cusp" of moving to lower tiers as conditions improve across the state.

Gov. Newsom also addressed the backlog at the Employment Development Department, which announced a [pause on new claims](#) until Oct. 5 to give it time to implement an automatic identity-verification tool to speed up processing time. The governor said he believes the two-week break will help clear the application backlog "within 90-100 days."

[You can watch today's update here.](#)

The [United States will soon reach 200,000 deaths](#) from the coronavirus, according to the official tally, though experts say the number is likely much higher. The number of people worldwide who have died from the coronavirus is [approaching 1 million](#). At least 30.9 million cases have been reported worldwide, with the U.S. contributing more than 6.7 million infections to that count.

Millions of Americans are in danger of [missing coronavirus relief payments](#) of up to \$1,200 per individual because of incomplete government records, according to a government watchdog group.

Spreading confusion: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention updated its [COVID-19 guidance](#) to acknowledge the risk that the coronavirus can be transmitted [through airborne respiratory particles](#) — but then [edited its website again this morning](#) to take that information down, saying it was still being reviewed.

A former commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration warned Sunday that the United States faces “a lot of risk” of [increased coronavirus spread](#) as the fall and winter approach. This comes as health experts [warn of a potential 'twindemic'](#) as COVID-19 cases rise and flu seasons looms.



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](#) 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.



BEST PRACTICES

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, October 14 from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.***

The [Vision Resource Center](#) is proud to launch the Faculty Community that is geared to support faculty connection and communication across the state. Faculty can ask questions, share promising practices and resources, and provide feedback and input for ongoing systemwide efforts.

The CVC-OEI has seats remaining in upcoming sessions of its Online Teaching & Design course. This 12-week course shows participants how to create the course they've always dreamed of teaching. You'll explore online learning theory, approaches to online course design and strategies for supporting student success. **Sessions begin on September 28. To learn more and register: visit <https://catalog.onlinenetworkofeducators.org/>**



STUDENT SUPPORTS

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

‘I miss mommy:’ [Families shattered by COVID-19](#) forge new paths.

No place to study, hunger, inadequate computers hurting Eastside and South Los Angeles students, [according to a new survey](#), which also suggests that the digital divide is continuing to harm the education of low-income Latino and Black students.

COVID-19 [conspiracy theories are spreading rapidly](#)—and they're a public health risk all their own.

TIP OF THE DAY

Do you want to learn how to combat diseases, reduce our environmental footprint, feed the hungry or reduce energy usage? If so, [find out more](#) about programs available in life sciences at a community college near you.

[More Tips of the Day](#)



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