



September 9, 2020 – COVID-19 Update No. 96



As we move into fall, colleges are creatively welcoming back faculty, staff and students both virtually and distantly. Cuyamaca College last week held a drive through “Welcome to Fall 2020” celebration for employees. District, campus and student leadership cheered and waved as employees drove through campus.

The COVID-19 Special Update publishes on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.



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:

- The governor, alongside Senator Anna Caballero, [signed three bills into law to support small businesses](#) grappling with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and help jumpstart state construction projects:
 - AB 1577 by Assemblymember Autumn Burke (D-Inglewood) conforms state law to federal law by excluding from gross income Paycheck Protection Program loans that were forgiven through the federal CARES Act and subsequent amendments in the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act of 2020.
 - SB 1447 by Senator Steven Bradford (D-Gardena), Senator Anna M. Caballero (D-Salinas) and Assemblymember Sabrina Cervantez (D-Corona) authorizes a \$100 million hiring tax credit program for qualified small businesses. The hiring credit will be equal to \$1,000 for each net increase in qualified employees, up to \$100,000 for each qualified small business employer.
 - SB 115, a budget trailer bill, by the Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review appropriates \$561 million in fiscal year 2020-21. This includes \$411.5 million to advance economic stimulus with \$230.5 million to help jumpstart construction projects.
- California now has [739,527 confirmed cases](#) of COVID-19, resulting in 13,841 deaths. The number of COVID-related deaths increased by 0.6 percent from Monday's total of 13,758.
- The state has performed 12.3 million tests. The rate of positive tests over the last 14 days has decreased to 4.0 percent. The positivity rate fell to 3.6 percent over the last seven days, the lowest rate since May.

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

President Donald Trump talked privately about the [severity of the coronavirus threat](#) even as he was telling the nation the virus was no worse than the seasonal flu and insisting the government had it totally under control, according to a new book by journalist Bob Woodward.

A [major coronavirus vaccine trial is on hold](#) as an independent committee investigates whether a case of spinal inflammation in a single British participant is linked to the vaccine.

Senate Republicans plan to vote later this week on [another economic relief package](#) for Americans dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, but the slimmed-down plan — which does not include new checks for individuals — is already a deal-breaker for Democrats, ensuring that the stalemate will continue.



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, September 16 from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

The [California Community Colleges Accessibility Center](#) will offer a webinar on the Pope Tech Instructor A11y Guide. The discussion will offer the opportunity to ask questions and share best practices regarding web, document and assistive technology accessibility issues. Audience participation is welcome. The webinar is Thursday, September 10 at 1:00 p.m. [Connection details are available 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](#).



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](tel: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](tel:1-800-273-8255). Or call or text the Victims of Crime Resource Center at [1-800-842-8467](tel:1-800-842-8467) for help.



ITEMS OF INTEREST

Moving back home: The [number of 18- to 29-year-olds living with their parents](#) has become a majority since U.S. coronavirus cases began spreading early this year, surpassing the previous peak during the Great Depression era, according to a new Pew Research Center study.

In America's four largest cities, at least half of people say [they have experienced the loss of a job or a reduction in wages or work hours](#) in their household since the start of the coronavirus outbreak, according to a new poll from NPR.

Long-term fevers, lingering fatigue and ongoing hair loss: Doctors are working to crack the mystery of ['long haul' COVID-19 sufferers](#) and the myriad symptoms that come with it.

TIP OF THE DAY

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is available every year on October 1. For undocumented, Dream Act-eligible students, the California Dream Act Application (CADAA) is your first step to getting financial aid. Check out ICanAffordCollege.com to see what types of aid you may qualify for and how to apply.

[More Tips of the Day](#)

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