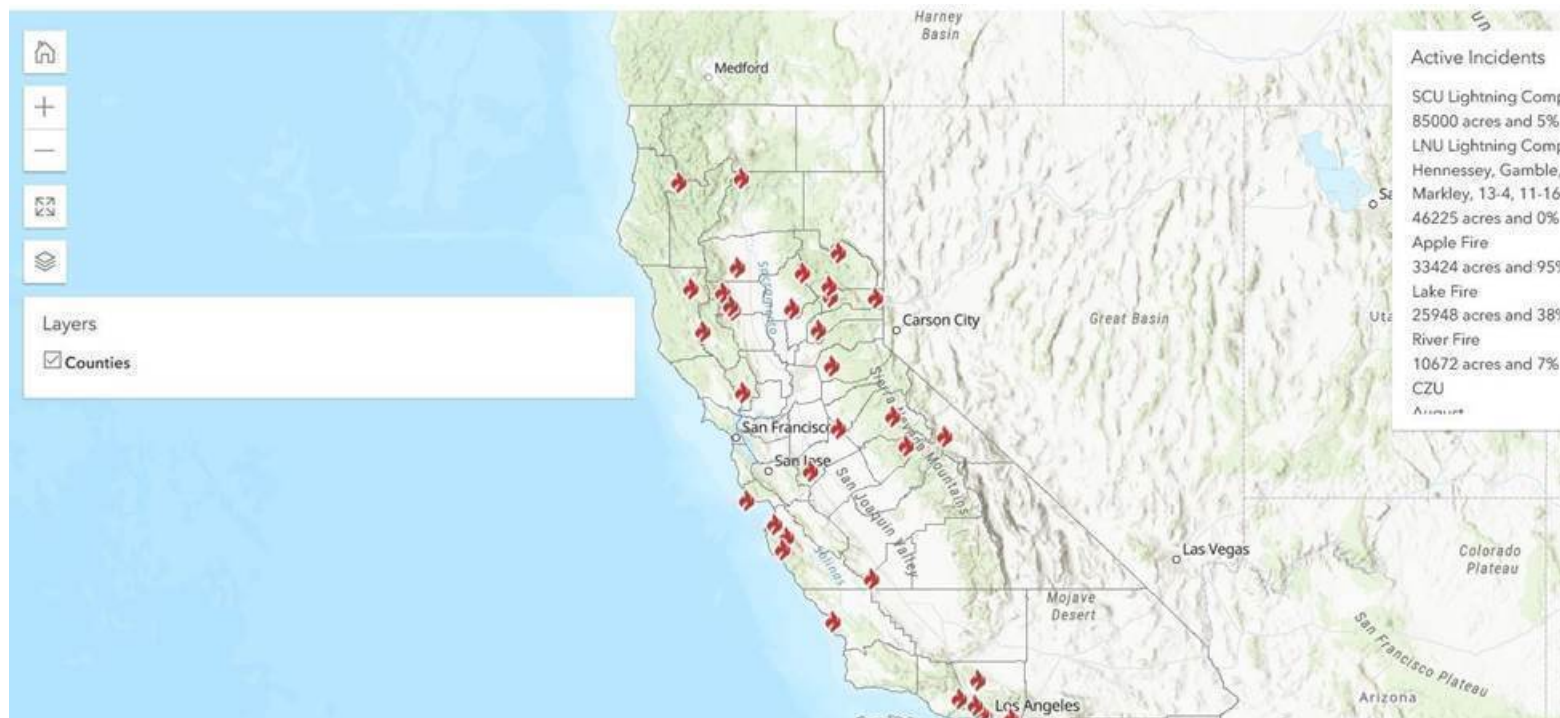




California
Community
Colleges

COVID-19 Update

August 19, 2020 – COVID-19 Update No. 88



Gov. Gavin Newsom has issued a state of emergency in response to the wildfires burning across California, destroying hundreds of buildings and homes and forcing mandatory evacuations. Today and every day, we say thank you to the first responders on the fire lines, risking their lives to protect us. (Fire incident map courtesy of [CAL FIRE](#).)

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 state's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. (All 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](#).

Among the headlines from today's update:

- The governor today opened his news conference talking about the [wildfires burning across the state](#), prompting him to [declare a state of emergency](#) yesterday. The governor said there are nearly [two dozen major wildfires](#) burning in California, plus another 344 'known fires.' To put in perspective, California has had 6,754 fires already this year, compared to 4,007 fires at the same time last year. The governor says the state is employing every available resource to keep communities safe, including requesting help from neighboring states to help with firefighting efforts.
- Gov. Newsom also touched on the continued historic heat wave, again imploring everyone to do what they can to conserve energy. A [Flex Alert](#) has been called for today between 2:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- Turning to COVID-19, the governor announced California now has [638,831 confirmed cases of COVID-19](#), resulting in 11,523 deaths. The number of COVID-related deaths increased by 1.6 percent from Monday's total of 11,147.
- The state has performed 10.1 million tests; the rate of positive tests over the past 14 days increased slightly to 6.6 percent. A bit of positive news: hospitalizations decreased 17 percent within the last 14 days and ICU admissions are down 13 percent over the past 14 days.
- There are now 40 counties on the state's [monitoring watch list](#). San Francisco County is in position to come off the watch list, possibly as early as tomorrow. San Diego, Santa Cruz and Placer counties were removed this week.

[You can watch today's update here](#). (Please note: it begins around the :15 mark.)

The coronavirus death toll [has passed 168,000](#) in the United States and 5.4 million cases have been reported.

The World Health Organization on Tuesday [issued a warning](#) that the COVID-19 pandemic is now being driven by people in their 20s, 30s and 40s who don't know they are infected.



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.

ICYMI: Chancellor Eloy Ortiz Oakley on Tuesday participated in a Student Town Hall with CalMatters on how our community college campuses are addressing concerns during the pandemic. [Watch the virtual discussion here.](#)



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM GUIDANCE/NEWS

California State University Chancellor Timothy P. White also participated in a Student Town Hall with CalMatters, to discuss that system's response to the pandemic. [Watch that virtual discussion here.](#)

Gov. Newsom this week [signed AB 1460](#), requiring students in the CSU system to take an [ethic studies course](#) before graduation.



BEST PRACTICES

College practitioners can find today's system webinar on the [Vision Resource Center](#). Today's webinar served as a follow up to the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Call to Action and featured California community college leaders presenting structural changes, tools and dialogue to help campuses prioritize an anti-racist campus culture.

We invite you to join the biweekly [Chancellor's Office System Webinars](#) as we pivot our 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 2 from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.



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

Containing coronavirus on campus: Notre Dame is [halting face-to-face instruction](#) for undergraduates for at last two weeks after a spike in confirmed COVID-19 cases.

Learning "pods" [highlight wealth disparity](#) in education amid pandemic.

Tiny air bubbles and a robot: [Inside the ‘weird’ finding](#) that could help explain why often, the sickest coronavirus patients don’t get enough oxygen despite being on ventilators.

TIP OF THE DAY

The California Community Colleges is committed to providing a safe and inclusive space for all students, regardless of immigration status. Visit [I Can Afford College](#) for more information about support services for Dreamers and how undocumented students can apply for financial aid.

[More Tips of the Day](#)

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



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