



California
Community
Colleges

COVID-19 Update

August 21, 2020 – COVID-19 Update No. 89



Diagnostic medical sonography students at Mt. San Jacinto College's Menifee Valley Campus for the first day of the fall 2020 semester (left to right) included Ruby Aquino of Menifee, Andrea Garcia of Murrieta, Justin Jones of Corona and Audrey Wong of Hemet. The Career Education class is one of the few that will be held in person this semester at MSJC. About 98 percent of MSJC's courses are being held online this fall due to the pandemic.

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



STATE AND NATIONAL GUIDANCE/EXECUTIVE ORDERS/NEWS

Gov. Gavin Newsom, along with fire and emergency officials, today gave an update on the [deadly wildfires](#) burning across the state. The governor said there are now 560 lightning-sparked active fires in California, including 18 new fires since yesterday. Statewide more than 770,000 acres, roughly the size of Rhode Island, are burning. Stay informed on the wildfire season with [CalOES](#), [CAL FIRE](#) and [ListosCA](#). There's also terrific information on how to prepare for wildfires in your area on the [Ready for Wildfire website](#).

[You can watch today's update here](#) or on Gov. Newsom's [Twitter page](#) and the [California Governor Facebook page](#).

Turning to the coronavirus pandemic, California now has [650,336 confirmed cases of COVID-19](#), resulting in 11,821 deaths. The number of COVID-related deaths increased by 1.2 percent from Wednesday's total of 11,686.

The state has performed 10.3 million tests; the rate of positive tests over the past 14 days decreased slightly to 6.5 percent.

[You can find more information on the state's response to the COVID-19 pandemic on California's COVID-19 website.](#)

The [World Health Organization today warned](#) a [coronavirus vaccine](#) alone won't end pandemic: 'We cannot go back to the way things were.'

New figures from the CDC highlight a stark disparity: [Deaths among minorities](#) during the crisis have risen far more than they have among whites.

More evidence [the U.S. economy is still struggling](#): The number of workers applying for unemployment climbed back to more than 1 million last week after two weeks of declines. It's a more positive outlook at the state level as California's [unemployment rate improved slightly](#) to 13.3 percent in July.

['A collision of crises:](#) How Californians are dealing with the heat, smoke and virus.



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

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.

ICYMI: College practitioners can find a recording of this week's system webinar [at this link](#) or on the [Vision Resource Center](#). Wednesday'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.

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](#) 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

Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine is on track for [regulatory review](#) In October.

For students with disabilities, schools say they [have to do better](#) in the fall.

A group of eye care professionals is warning parents about potential eye strain for students as many return to online school this fall. [Here are some ways to avoid it](#).

Concerned about the smoky skies lingering over much of the state? Here's good information on [how to cope](#).

TIP OF THE DAY

Online courses allow you to learn whenever, wherever, and however works best for you, making it easier to earn your degree or certificate while balancing work and family commitments. Read more about [developing skills for effective online learning](#).

[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.’



Brought to you by the Chancellor’s Office, Office of Communications and Marketing
1102 Q Street, Sacramento, CA 95811 | 916.445.8752