



California  
Community  
Colleges

# COVID-19 Update

August 24, 2020 – COVID-19 Update No. 90



Student Services staff members at Porterville College arrived on campus early today for a drive-thru event to support students on the first day of the virtual fall semester. Have a great year, Pirates! (Image courtesy of [Porterville College President Dr. Claudia Habib on Twitter](#).)

**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 and the [deadly wildfires](#) burning across the state. The governor said there are now 625 fires burning in California, including 10 new fires since yesterday. Statewide more than [1.2 million acres](#), roughly the size of the Grand Canyon, are burning.

Turning to the coronavirus pandemic, California now has [668,615 confirmed cases of COVID-19](#), resulting in 12,152 deaths. The number of COVID-related deaths increased by 0.1 percent from Saturday's total of 12,134.

The state has performed 10.6 million tests; the rate of positive tests over the past 14 days is holding steady at 6.5 percent and is down to 5.6% over a seven-day period.

There are now 35 counties on the state's [monitoring watch list](#). Calaveras, Mono, Napa, Orange and Sierra counties have been removed from the list. Gov. Newsom said updated reopening guidance will be coming this week for counties that are coming off the watch list.

During his news conference, the governor gave his appreciation to Chancellor Eloy Ortiz Oakley and the California community colleges that are opening up their campuses to help in the firefighting efforts across the state.

[You can watch today's update here](#) or on Gov. Newsom's [Twitter page](#) and the [California Governor Facebook page](#). Stay informed on the wildfire season with [CalOES](#), [CAL FIRE](#) and [ListosCA](#). Find more information on the state's response to the COVID-19 pandemic on [California's COVID-19 website](#).

Education Secretary Betsy DeVos today issued new [distance learning guidelines](#) for higher education.

The number of [confirmed coronavirus deaths](#) in the U.S. continues to climb. The CDC on Sunday reported there have been 175,651 deaths and 5.64 million total cases. [Global coronavirus deaths](#) surged past 800,000 people on Saturday.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration on Sunday announced an emergency use authorization for convalescent plasma – the blood of recovered coronavirus patients – as a possible treatment for COVID-19, though some health experts say the country is moving too quickly on this treatment. [Here's what to know about it](#).



### 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 the previous system webinar [at this link](#) or on the [Vision Resource Center](#). The 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

Great news: The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has cleared the way for the world's first [fully transparent surgical mask](#).

COVID-19 is a '[crisis within a crisis](#)' for homeless people.

Educators worry about the feasibility of returning to [in-person learning](#).

**TIP OF THE DAY**

Tune into a conversation between Chancellor Eloy Ortiz Oakley and California Student Aid Commission’s Executive Director, Marlene Garcia, as they discuss the results from the spring 2020 COVID-19 Student Survey. [Tune into the podcast.](#)

[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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