



August 14, 2020 – COVID-19 Update No. 86



Hartnell College directly contributed to COVID-19 treatment during the pandemic. Nearly 90 Hartnell nursing students participated in patient care at Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital. The college also loaned 13 ventilators from its respiratory care program and donated PPE such as gloves and masks. (Photo courtesy of Salinas Valley Memorial Healthcare System.)

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 focused on schools, saying more than 90 percent of K-12 students in California are likely starting the school year with distance learning. The state's leader is advocating for rigorous distance education learning, and noted the requirement of access to devices and quality internet connectivity for ALL students.
- California now has [601,075 confirmed cases of COVID-19](#), resulting in 10,996 deaths. The number of COVID-related deaths increased by 1.7 percent from Wednesday's total of 10,778.
- The state has performed 9.5 million COVID-19 tests; the rate of positive tests over the last 14 days is holding steady at 6.2 percent.

[You can watch today's update here.](#) (Please note: it begins around the 4:00 mark.)

Blame on both sides and now a recess: Americans are waiting on a new economic stimulus — but [Congress is on break](#) until Labor Day.

With more than [5.2 million COVID-19 cases](#), and flu season rapidly approaching, the director of the Centers for Disease Control said this week, "[the country could be facing](#) "the worst fall, from a public health perspective, we've ever had."

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert, said Thursday that [depending on herd immunity](#) to end the coronavirus pandemic would lead to an "enormous," "totally unacceptable" number of deaths.



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.

Executive Vice Chancellor for Educational Services and Support Marty J. Alvarado on Thursday released this [updated guidance memo](#) containing information related to the extension of COVID-19 related grading policies and processes campuses should undertake to mitigate impact to students that had courses cancelled mid-semester. There is also clarifying information regarding the impact on academic standing and eligibility of previously issued Executive Orders.



BEST PRACTICES

CalMatters is hosting a virtual discussion with Chancellor Eloy Ortiz Oakley on how community college campuses are addressing concerns during the pandemic, from the cost of tuition to remote learning. The conversation is Tuesday, August 18 from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. Current/future community colleges students and their parents or caregivers are encouraged to submit questions and comments. [Register at this link.](#)

Over the past several months the Chancellor's Office convened weekly webinars to create a space for continuous information during these unprecedented times. During this time, we have learned that this space has been a reliable and much needed source of information for our system and as a result, we will continue these bi-weekly webinars on the first and third Wednesday of the month. We invite you to join the [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 system webinar is August 19 and will feature a follow up to the Chancellor's Call to Action.** (Please note: you can register for the webinars through the [Vision Resource Center](#). Once signed in, navigate to the events calendar: Learning / Workshop Calendar and find the next Chancellor's Office System Webinar, then click on the event title to view details and register.) You can also tune in through the webinar's [LIVestream](#) option.



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

Four states, including California, and one city have been directed by federal health officials to develop [coronavirus vaccine roll-out plans](#) that will be circulated with other states.

It is that time of year: students worldwide are saying goodbye to summer break and welcoming the start of a new school year. So [how have back-to-school supplies changed?](#)

TIP OF THE DAY

The California Community College Chancellor's Office is committed to addressing bias in higher education. If you're interested in learning more about how to identify implicit bias in yourself or a loved one, visit Project Implicit to take a series of online assessment tests.

[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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