

4-3-20 Update on COVID-19

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 1 attachments (29 KB)

Positive COVID Communications Protocol.docx;

Dear Colleagues,

It's hard to believe that we're wrapping up our third week of living in this COVID-19 universe. New information, guidelines, and mandates emerge on a daily basis, so we will continue to adapt to the changes. Please continue to check www.nocccd.edu/coronavirus for the latest updates on local and state issues.

Here are the important highlights from this week.

Remainder of 2019-20 School Year

All District decisions regarding the remainder of the 2019-20 school year are in accordance with state and federal guidelines. We remain dedicated to providing safe, quality education for our students.

- Campus closures will continue through the end of May. While there's no doubt that the next two months will hold many surprises, all indicators point to a continuation of campus closures. All sites will remain closed to the public with limited access to employees and students who have been authorized to be on campus.
- Focus on distance education and remote learning. Cypress College and Fullerton College have transitioned over 90% of their classes to a remote environment, and NOCE is in the process of moving as many classes as possible to an asynchronous mode. For those classes that need face-to-face instruction, we will determine how the course can be completed in a future term, or extend the spring semester, if needed, for these classes only. Our intent is to ensure completion of the 90% of courses currently being delivered in an online environment within the current semester term. As of today, the State Chancellor's Office has not yet made allowances for health science, CTE, or other courses with labs and clinical requirements.
- Continue to Support Students. The campus closures and move to remote learning has been stressful for all of us. Thank you for the innovation and support you have demonstrated to help our students – emotionally, academically, and financially. Our focus right now should be to get as many students as possible to the finish line this year.
- Alternative Commencement Ceremonies. Cypress College will hold a virtual commencement ceremony on May 22. Fullerton College and NOCE are exploring the possibility of offering either a virtual commencement ceremony or a postponed in-person ceremony.

Alternative Work Environment

I am so proud and amazed at the speed with which our entire District has transitioned to this alternative work environment—a combination of working from home, staggered scheduling for critical duties, and online instruction and student services. As we navigate through this crisis, flexibility and resourcefulness will continue to be important.

- Plan to continue working remotely through the end of May. Our decision on when to reopen our offices will be guided by state and federal regulations. Social distancing and enhanced cleaning procedures will continue to be in effect as long as the crisis continues.
- Status of MOU's. For the past two weeks, District leaders and union executive teams have been busy putting together MOU's about work conditions and expectations. The MOU's with CSEA and ADFAC have been signed and we are close to an agreement on the MOU language with UF. An updated Temporary Telecommuting Agreement will also be emailed to you.

Recruitments

We are moving forward with limited recruitments for campus-identified critical vacancies. Committee meetings and only those interviews that can be conducted remotely using guidelines and best practices to support a quality process will go forward this semester. The majority of other recruitments and hiring cycles will take place in the fall, but some may be done during summer based on the campus needs and availability of committee members. Communication about the process will go out to all hiring committees and applicants in the near future.

Communication Protocol for positive cases of COVID-19

At the end of last week, the District announced three confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 within our campus communities. Experts predict that as testing within Orange County increases, the number of positive cases will rise as well; however, we had no new confirmed cases this week. Attached please find the communication protocol to handle **confirmed** cases as they become known to you. If any new cases become confirmed, a community release will be posted on our website every Friday.

Educational and Facilities Master Plan

Work continues on the Education and Facilities Master Plan (EFMP) through the Steering Committee and consultants.

- Consultants have continued to work on the first draft of the EFMP and have shared some initial documents with the Steering Committee in lieu of a meeting.
- Since governance committees are resuming, the first draft of the EFMP will be distributed to the Steering Committee, DCC and campus governance groups for input.
- We are working on ways to hold virtual forums and to continue to engage all constituents in order to provide input.

If there is a silver lining to this situation, it's the remarkable amount of team work and innovation that have taken place in the past few weeks. Thank you all, so much, for your willingness to work together in service of our mission. Stay safe and healthy.

Cheryl

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