

Chancellor's Memo: COVID Update

Chancellor <chancellor@nocccd.edu>

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Dear Colleagues – I hope that this message finds you doing well as we move further into the spring term. I'm happy to report that we continue to see significant decline in COVID-19 cases since my last memo. In fact, COVID cases in California have declined 65% since the Omicron variant's peak. Orange County's daily case rates have fallen to 68.2 per 100,000 residents. Statewide test positivity fell to 8.3% for its lowest reading in 2022. This is good news for all of us, and is reason for heightened optimism as we move toward the end of the winter season. As we return to our workspaces and classrooms this week, it is important to remember the protocols we have in place to keep our community safe.

Here are the pertinent COVID-19 updates for NOCCCD you should be aware of.

Spring Semester 2022 Scheduling: In an effort to streamline planning for the remainder of this academic year, District staff are required to work at least three days a week on-site until further notice. The existing Memorandums of Understanding concerning the District's response to COVID-19 will expire at the end of the spring 2022 term.

Exceptions to the 3/2 work schedule include:

- Faculty teaching remotely
- Employees who have a Human Resources-approved medical accommodation to continue working remotely
- Employees that are required to work on-site more frequently based on operational and student needs

Summer 2022 Scheduling: NOCCCD plans to begin its traditional 4/10 summer schedule beginning on June 6, 2022 for District Services, Cypress College, and Fullerton College.

Fall 2022 Scheduling: The regular five-day work week will begin on August 15, 2022. As we prepare for a full return to campus this fall, we want to clarify that the fall 2022 semester will be scheduled for pre-pandemic conditions. If you have any questions concerning your schedule, please contact your immediate management supervisor. If you believe you need to apply for a medical accommodation, please contact Human Resources at hr-covid@nocccd.edu.

Over the course of the spring and summer we will continue to speak with student and employee groups about teaching and learning opportunities (and their experiences) in remote, hybrid, and in-person modalities. The collection of this data, an assessment of the current 3/2 work schedule and, ultimately, our ability to meet student needs, will be used to determine the feasibility of any flexibility in work schedules moving forward.

Barring any emergencies, staff and faculty will be expected to meet their contractual campus hours per their respective CBAs.

NOCCCD Mask Mandate: While California's statewide indoor mask requirement expired February 15, 2022, the NOCCCD mask mandate continues in effect per existing CDC guidelines. All employees and students, regardless of vaccine status, will be required to wear face coverings while indoors on campus or working in or visiting District facilities. Guidelines and protocols regarding face coverings can be found at www.nocccd.edu/covid19.

Supplemental Paid Sick Leave: On February 9, 2022, Governor Newsom signed Senate Bill (SB) 114 which provides for COVID-19 supplemental paid sick leave for eligible employees who are unable to work or telework due to certain reasons related to COVID-19, including:

- The employee is attending a COVID-19 vaccine or vaccine booster appointment for themselves or a family member
- The employee is experiencing symptoms, or caring for a family member experiencing symptoms, related to a COVID-19 vaccine or vaccine booster
- If the covered employee, or a family member for whom the covered employee is providing care, tests positive for COVID-19 (verification required by law)

The bill is retroactive to January 1, 2022 and is effective until September 30, 2022. You can apply for COVID Supplemental Sick Leave through MyGateway.

Please monitor your email closely for updates from campus leadership that provide additional information and details specific to the operations of each site.

Please continue to prioritize your own and our community safety by conducting a daily self-check before coming to work; checking in and out of facilities on the campuses; and employing sound mask, hand hygiene, and social distancing practices.

As always, thank you for your hard work and dedication. I appreciate your continued commitment to our students and community.

Byron D. Clift Breland, Ph.D.

Chancellor

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