

COVID Update Memo

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Dear Colleagues – I know you have many questions about the pandemic’s effect on staffing, operations, and instruction, specifically how and when we will return in large numbers to our sites. This memo provides the answers we have as of today. As you know, things change on a daily basis and we will continue to adjust as needed.

How can I get vaccinated?

The Orange County Health Care Agency has declared that employees of educational institutions are now eligible to receive the vaccine under Phase 1B, Tier 1. If you live or work in Orange County, you can register at: [Othena.com](https://othena.com). If you have not yet registered, click on “first time user.” When you go for your appointment, remember to bring your NOCCCD identification and a copy of your pay stub which can be accessed on MyGateway under the employee tab. Plan to be at the vaccination site for approximately one hour. You can find additional information at: <https://occovid19.ochealthinfo.com/covid-19-vaccination-distribution>.

The state of California also has a site: [My Turn - California COVID-19 Vaccine Scheduling & Notifications](https://myturn.ca.gov) that allows you to register and schedule a vaccination appointment. Both sites use eligibility factors to determine how soon you can be vaccinated.

Will vaccinations be mandatory?

No, vaccinations will not be mandatory for employees or students until it is required by law. The District does, however, encourage all employees and students to get vaccinated as soon as they are eligible. If you would like to read more about the vaccines, the Centers for Disease Control has a good site: [Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/)

What are the on-site return-to-work plans for the Summer and Fall?

A significant number of employees are already working on-site with PPE and rotating work schedules to allow for social distancing. Each site is currently creating plans to safely increase the number of employees on-site during the Summer and Fall as we begin to re-open our campuses. Managers will share these plans with employees as they are created. If you believe that you cannot work on-site for any reason, please contact your immediate management supervisor for further instructions.

Will face-to-face classes will be taught in Summer and Fall?

The type and number of in-person classes offered will depend on campus assessments of the criteria set forth in the California Community Colleges *Report of the Safe Campus Reopening Workgroup*.

General considerations as suggested by the American College Health Association (ACHA) should include, but are not limited to:

- Prioritization of in-person instruction for courses with academic outcomes that cannot be measured or achieved virtually, such as performance, laboratory, and clinical experiences.
- Limitation of the number of attendees for in-person courses/sections. In most cases, all in-person courses/sections should be limited and also utilize other physical distancing measures.
- Development of a physical distancing plan for each course.
- Development of specialized plans for students who are at increased risk due to the occupational nature of their studies. Examples include health professional students and students engaged in out-of-classroom or community-based instruction. Ensure students are provided with adequate Personal Protective Equipment, supervision, and other protections based on their risk.

- Development of attendance and excuse policies that acknowledge and support students who become ill without creating barriers and without requiring unnecessary visits to health facilities for documentation of illness.
- Identification of resources for students with learning disabilities or difficulties with remote learning platforms.

While we do not plan return to 100% in-person instruction for Summer or Fall, the District acknowledges that our county and state are no longer in lockdown, and we seek to reopen our sites accordingly. Thankfully, with all that we've learned about COVID-19, as well as rapid testing and the increased distribution of vaccinations, we now have a roadmap for how to return to campuses safely.

Another update will be sent in mid-March as we receive additional information and develop our plans. Please stay safe as we begin to emerge from this pandemic.

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