

September COVID-19 Update

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To: alldistrict <all.district@nocccd.edu>

Dear Colleagues,

A very warm and welcoming back to the school year to all of NOCCCD! Though this September is unlike any other, our mission to provide the best higher education possible has not changed. As we embark on our endeavors, let me give you an update on the District's COVID-19 efforts.

Positive Case Count

Since my last update in August, NOCCCD has had **zero positive cases of COVID-19** reported by employees—which is an incredible accomplishment! I want to thank you all for diligently following state guidelines, and keeping yourself and your coworkers safe.

NOCCCD COVID-19 Guidelines and Protocols Manual

The District is working with the campuses and Academic Senates to update the *NOCCCD COVID-19 Guidelines and Protocols Manual* with appropriate direction for faculty and students. Much of the additional sections will echo the safety protocols already developed for employees, with the focus being on parameters for **on-campus** instruction during the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 semesters. Though most classes will still be in remote status for the foreseeable future, courses with a critical face-to-face component are now being held on campus and will be scheduled for Spring. With the help of our faculty partners, we're hoping to publish the new edition of the *NOCCCD COVID-19 Guidelines and Protocols Manual* by early October.

If you haven't already done so, please take a look at the Summer Edition of the *NOCCCD COVID-19 Guidelines and Protocols Manual* at: https://www.nocccd.edu/files/nocccd-covid-19-manual-july-30-2020_07411.pdf.

Personal Protective Equipment

In August, NOCCCD received a large shipment of personal protective equipment (PPE) from the State of California Governor's Office. In total, we received about 1,000 N95 masks; over 2 million surgical masks; 147,000 cloth masks; 1,000 face shields; 50 thermometers; and 2,500 bottles of hand sanitizer. These supplies, and others that the District has purchased, are available now for employees and students who are required to be on campus. If you are in need of PPE, please contact your manager for distribution information.

New State Framework

On September 8, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom moved Orange County from the "Purple Tier" to the "Red Tier" as part of California's new *Blueprint for a Safer Economy* reopening structure (<https://ocovid19.ochealthinfo.com/article/oc-health-officers-orders-recommendations>). Moving from the "Purple Tier" which denotes widespread restrictions to "Red Tier" which means less substantial restrictions signals that Orange County is moving in the right direction with its containment of the virus. This new *Blueprint for a Safer Economy* replaces the previous guidance from the State, and includes a color-coded, tiered system that will use two metrics to measure the COVID-19 spread within a county and its appropriate tier rating: spread rate and test positive type.

Per this new guidance system, counties must remain in a tier for a minimum of 21 days. For Orange County to remain in the Red Tier, we will have to report between four-to-seven COVID-19 cases per 100,000 residents and a positivity rate between five-to-eight percent. To transition to the less restrictive "Orange Tier" the County

will have to report between one-to-3.9 new COVID-19 cases per 100,000 resident per day and a positivity rate between two-to-4.9 percent for at least two consecutive weeks. To learn more about the tiers, go to www.COVID19.ca.gov which shows which business sectors are allowed to open with an interactive map.

Additionally, County Health Officer Dr. Clayton Chau has issued related new Orders and Strong Recommendations which include a request that most county residents and visitors get a seasonal flu vaccination to help with the fight against COVID-19.

As always, please let me or any of our District Services staff know if you have issues or questions concerning COVID-19. Thank you for your hard work and continued support.

Cheryl

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