

**March 31 District COVID Update**

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To: Huff, Gene &lt;ehuff@4cd.edu&gt;

Colleagues,

As communicated last week, Contra Costa Health Services' prior shelter-at-home order was in effect through April 7. Yesterday, CCHS issued a press release indicating that they would soon be extending the order through at least May 3 and the new order was issued this afternoon. In anticipation of the new order, District administrative, senate and labor leaders met earlier today and based on the CCHS announcement, the following recommendations have been made and will be finalized by District leadership on April 7, after constituency group consultation:

1. All instruction for the remainder of SP20 should plan to be conducted via remote instruction.
  - a. Final exams should plan to be conducted remotely.
  - b. Classes and/or class components that can not be completed remotely will be addressed at each college beginning the week of April 6. Proposals for alternative instruction will be considered by College leadership. Academic Senates will begin discussing a process for evaluating alternatives to remote instruction starting April 6.
2. All student and instructional support activities should plan to continue to be provided remotely, where feasible, through at least the end of the SP20 term, or until the County/State shelter-in-place restrictions are modified or lifted.
3. All operational support activities will continue to be provided remotely, unless identified as essential services that require physical presence, until the County/State shelter-in-place restrictions are modified or lifted.
4. All events, including in-person graduation ceremonies, scheduled for April or May are postponed or cancelled. Where possible, alternatives to in-person events will be considered in lieu of cancellation. Graduation planning committees at each college are exploring opportunities to provide virtual graduation experiences for our students.

With the CCHS announcement coming out early, we thought it was important to share the direction District leadership was going. There is no indication that the restrictions in the current order will be dramatically revised or lifted, even after May 3, so it makes sense to plan for the status quo in the short-term. It's also likely that once restrictions begin being eased, it will be done gradually, with the size of allowable gatherings being increased over a period of time. We need to consider that likelihood in planning to return to in-person operations and services, and ultimately instruction.

Safety for all our students and employees remains a top concern. Before any plans are put in place to return significant numbers of people to our facilities, appropriate cleaning and protection protocols will be put in place. A few functions, such as police services, continue to have a substantial presence on campus so we have some current cleaning protocols already in-use.

More information will be shared broadly after next Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>. The District website is also updated regularly and contains a link to the Contra Costa Health Services website where we go for the latest updates on COVID-19 and where you can find current information about current orders. The link is here: <http://www.4cd.edu/covid19/default.aspx>

Again, a sincere "thank you" to everyone for your ongoing hard work and dedication to our students' success. Please stay safe.

Gene Huff  
Interim Chancellor