



**MERCED COLLEGE  
MEMORANDUM**

---

To: MCCD Employees

From: Chris Vitelli, Superintendent/President

Date: February 27, 2020

Subject: **Response to concerns re: the coronavirus...**

---

Merced College Colleagues,

The health and wellbeing of our students and employees are a top priority. Recent outbreaks of the coronavirus (COVID-19) in China and a recently reported case in California have created understandable concern and a sense of urgency to proactively plan for a possible pandemic preparedness situation.

First, I want to stress that we have no information or reason to believe there are any imminent threats of the virus spreading to our community. In fact, the California Department of Public Health Director Dr. Sonia Angell this morning said that the current public threat in California is low and the state department of public health has not recommended the cancelation of public events. Additionally, the California Community College Chancellor's Office is also monitoring the situation and providing our system ongoing updates as more information is made available. Below is an email from Chancellor Oakley with links to important information regarding the virus.

At the same time, we recognize the importance to plan for possible emergencies proactively. As such, I have asked Kelly Underwood, Associate Vice President of Human Resources, to convene an internal team of professionals to serve as an advisory to the Office of the President and Senior Administration by closely monitoring this situation and developing potential response plans for the College if it becomes a more imminent concern for our locality. This team will begin to draft potential emergency plans for students and employees—based on the recommendations provided by the California Department of Public Health and local health professionals.

Please refer to the following link from the CDC for current, reliable information about the status of COVID-19 in the United States and the California Department of Public Health:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/nCOV2019.aspx>

**The Merced College Office of Student Health Services has provided the following information for our college community:**

As always, please follow the basic guidelines for preventing the spread of any illness by:

- Staying home if you are sick (if you have a cough or flu like symptoms, and a fever, do not come to campus until you your fever is less than 100 degrees for 24 hours, without the use of fever reducing medication)
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Avoid touching your mouth, nose, eyes
- Frequent handwashing with soap and water
- Cover your cough and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve
- Clean frequently touched surfaces and objects (i.e., phones, computers)

***As of this writing, CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19. If you are sick, stay home.***

Additional resources that may be helpful:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/stop-the-spread-of-germs.pdf>

<https://www.cdc.gov/nonpharmaceutical-interventions/pdf/stay-home-youre-sick-item5.pdf>

As always, the health and safety of our students and employees are top priorities. We will continue to monitor and plan as we learn more about this potential outbreak. We will keep you abreast to developments and updates.

Dear Colleague,

Updating Chancellor Oakley's communication from last week, the California Department of Public Health has now developed official guidance for colleges and universities regarding the 2019 Novel Coronavirus. The document can be found [here](#) and will also be included under the Systemwide Tools and Resources section of Today's News.

Regards,

**Paul Feist**

**Vice Chancellor**

Communications & Marketing

**California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office**

1102 Q Street, Sacramento, California 95811

[www.cccco.edu](http://www.cccco.edu)



# California Community Colleges

February 5, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

As a resource, below you will find a link to the California Department of Public Health Coronavirus website for you to share with your college community as you deem appropriate. We are aware that the current health risk related to the virus in California is low but still a matter of concern. We advise your executive and communications teams to monitor official public health sites, such as the California Department of Public Health, as will our office.

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/nCOV2019.aspx>

We hope you find this information useful. Should you have questions or need further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Vice Chancellor for Communications and Marketing Paul Feist at [PFeist@cccco.edu](mailto:PFeist@cccco.edu) or Director of Communications and Marketing Paige Marlatt Dorr at [PDorr@cccco.edu](mailto:PDorr@cccco.edu).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eloy Ortiz Oakley'.

Eloy Ortiz Oakley

**Eloy Ortiz Oakley**  
**Chancellor, California Community Colleges**  
Regent, University of California  
1102 Q Street, Suite 4400  
Sacramento, CA 95811-6549