

## *Sent on behalf of the Vice President of Student Services*

Merced College Students,

As you may know, California Governor Gavin Newsom recently imposed a new stay-at-home order for our region. This stay-at-home order will be in effect for at least three weeks. In consultation with the Merced County Public Health Department, we have been informed that higher education is *not* required to close. Therefore, Merced College will continue to offer limited onsite services and maintain the face-to-face laboratory classes that have been offered during the fall 2020 semester, unless otherwise notified by the instructor(s) of your class(es).

Merced College will continue to practice preventive measures to protect our students and employees. We will also continue to work to implement heightened mitigation efforts to do our part to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and to protect our students and employees.

In order to help stay safe, please be sure to follow all guidelines and best practices:

- ✓ Wear a cloth face covering inside of, or in line to enter any indoor public space, or when unable to maintain six feet of social distance outside
- ✓ Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces
- ✓ Practice social distancing
- ✓ Wash hands with soap and warm water for 20 seconds
- ✓ Use hand sanitizer with 60 percent alcohol base when handwashing is not possible
- ✓ Stay home and isolate, if you are feeling sick

Again, all currently scheduled face-to-face laboratory classes are permitted to complete their final week of instruction and final exam week as planned. Professors will continue to provide course specific information.

If you are interested, you can read more about the State's regional Stay-At-Home Order here: <https://covid19.ca.gov/stay-home-except-for-essential-needs/>.

Stay safe, stay healthy.