

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT/SUPERINTENDENT
PRESIDENT'S CAMPUS UPDATES



March 25, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

I hope this email finds you well. I know many of you are anxious and/or curious about the fall 2021 semester. I want to take a few moments to provide you with a brief update.

About a month ago during a board meeting, I asked the campus and the Board to give me one to one-and-a-half months before I provide you and them with a recommendation for the fall semester. I asked for this time so we could evaluate data and better understand the impact of the county's vaccination efforts and new health guidelines. The LA County Department of Public Health has been providing very encouraging numbers as it relates to COVID-19 positivity rates. However, the information is changing very fast, making it challenging to plan with accuracy.

On March 15, LA County transitioned from the Purple Tier down to the Red Tier, and we are about to transition to the Orange Tier. This has taken place in a span of two weeks. To reach the [Orange Tier](#), a county must have an adjusted rate of 3.9 or fewer new COVID-19 cases per 100,000 people each day, a test positivity rate of under 5%, and a health equity metric of less than 5.3%. State data shows that LA and Orange counties have checked all those boxes. The most recent adjusted case rates for LA and Orange counties were 3.7% and 3.5%, respectively. Consequently, it is reasonable to expect a move from the Red Tier down to Orange Tier in the next week or two at most.

In short, I want to thank you for allowing me the requested time to evaluate the latest state and county data. I will be prepared to provide the campus with a recommendation and guidelines next week. For now, what I can tell you is that, based on the current data and imminent move to the Orange Tier, we will increase on-campus operations for the fall 2021 semester. Our presence on campus will be aligned with state and county guidelines and under the strictest safety protocols. Rest assured that we continue to consult with experts and ensure we follow all safety protocols so that we are confident our campus is prepared for the fall semester.

Best,
Jose

Jose L. Fierro, D.V.M., Ph.D.
President/Superintendent