

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT/SUPERINTENDENT
PRESIDENT'S CAMPUS UPDATES



March 3, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

By now, you have likely noticed the increase in media coverage surrounding the spread of the novel coronavirus. We want to assure you that we continue to monitor the situation and our focus remains on the health and welfare of our students, faculty, staff and administrators.

I am writing today to provide updates regarding the novel coronavirus. At the time of this writing, there has been one positive case in LA County in a non-resident traveler from Wuhan City, China. There have been no additional cases. Currently, there is no immediate threat to the general public and no special precautions are required. Los Angeles County residents, students, workers, and visitors are encouraged to engage in their regular activities and practice good public health hygiene, as this is the height of flu season across the County.

State, county and local agencies are taking steps to prepare our communities should conditions change. In an abundance of caution, we are preparing as we would for any other potentially disruptive situation, such as a natural disaster.

What Is Cerritos College Doing?

The Infectious Disease Outbreak Coordination Team, led by Executive Council and in collaboration with the Associate Dean of Student Health and Wellness Services and the Chief of Campus Police, is monitoring the situation closely and has created an emergency response plan to ensure the health and safety of our community. Communication is key in an evolving situation such as this one; to that end, we are in the process of creating a webpage that will include this message and links to important resources and information.

We will also be hanging posters in every bathroom, reminding people of the importance of washing hands thoroughly, which is the single best strategy you can take to protect yourself and others from spreading any virus, and other important facts to know about the novel coronavirus, or COVID-19.

Campus Cleaning Efforts

The Facilities department will be cleaning high-traffic areas and high-touch surfaces more frequently, including restrooms. In addition, **all of us must pay special attention to doorknobs, phones, and keyboards to ensure the cleanliness of our areas.** The college will be ordering large quantities of disinfectant supplies that will be distributed across campus.

Flexibility in Attendance

We will be meeting with leadership from all constituent groups to develop a strategy for all of us to be flexible in the event a student or employee falls ill or needs to care for a sick family member. We will also be discussing potential telecommuting options for employees if the occasion arises.

District-Sponsored Travel

All district international travel is restricted at this time pending further developments. We are closely monitoring the CDC updates to make a determination regarding out-of-state and in-state travel.

What Can You Do?

Practice Good Hygiene

Prevention measures for the coronavirus are similar to those used against the common cold and flu, both of which are currently circulating in high numbers across the country. These are everyday habits that can help prevent the spread of several viruses:

- Avoid contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home if you are sick, especially if you have a fever.
- Wash your hands often and with soap and water, making a good soapy lather, for at least 20 seconds, which is about the time it takes to sing the “Happy Birthday” song twice.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Don’t share food and drinks.
- Clean and disinfect shared surfaces and objects that are touched frequently.

Seek Medical Evaluation if You Have Symptoms

You should seek medical evaluation for COVID-19 if you have any of these symptoms.

- Ill with a fever, cough, or difficulty breathing AND have traveled from an affected area in the last 14 days.
- Ill with fever, cough, or difficulty breathing AND have been identified by Public Health as a recent close contact of a confirmed COVID-19 case or had recent close contact with someone who is being evaluated for COVID-19 infection.
- Ill with a severe lower respiratory tract infection and unknown contact during known community transmission.

Avoid Being a Target

Be aware that hackers are using the coronavirus to leverage phishing schemes that trick people into clicking on malicious links and sharing their personal security information. As always, be cautious when clicking on links in emails from unknown sources.

Live Our Values

Our community values will be tested in times like these. We must continue to be united and support each other as COVID-19 becomes more widespread. In times of fear and uncertainty, there is often misinformation shared as a result of bias and, at times, discrimination. COVID-19 is a global concern that can make anyone sick, regardless of their race or ethnicity. Cerritos College is committed to providing a safe and inclusive environment for all who study, work or visit.

If you experience or witness any bias or harassment, report it to the Cerritos College [Title IX Coordinator](#).

Stay Informed

We will notify the campus via RAVE Mobile Safety text alerts regarding campus emergencies and other safety issues. In the event of suspended operations, you will be notified through this alert system.

The [Los Angeles County Public Health](#) publishes a page with regular updates relevant specifically to our region.

Additional Information and Resources

- [Novel Coronavirus FAQs](#) from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.
- [Guidance for Colleges & Universities from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health - Novel Coronavirus \(2019-nCoV\)](#).
- The CDC includes the [latest information on the virus](#), how it's spread and prevention measures.
- To learn more about U.S. cases, [view the CDC's map](#).
- CDC travel advisories are at Level 3: Avoid Nonessential Travel for [China](#), [South Korea](#), and [Italy](#). U.S. Department of State travel advisories are at Level 4: Do Not Travel for [China](#) and Level 3: Reconsider Travel for [Italy](#) and [South Korea](#). Monitor the [CDC](#) and [State Department](#) for the latest travel advisories.
- The CDC also has helpful information on [prevention tips](#) and [what to do](#) if people may have contracted the virus or been exposed to the virus.
- [California State Department of Health](#) information.

We know you may be worried about this new virus. We are committed to keeping you informed and working with you to keep our college community safe. We will share information and updates on our webpage and social media pages.

Jose

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President/Superintendent