



Office of the President



To: Colleagues
From: Fierro, Jose L.
Sent: Saturday, January 08, 2022
Subject: COVID: Additional Reduction on Campus Footprint

Dear Colleagues,

Yesterday's LA County data demonstrates another rapid development in this current surge: 43,712 new COVID-19 cases in one day. That equates to a 38% percent increase in positive cases since my last email communication to you. We are also receiving information that suggests we are not yet at the peak of this surge. As you know, we consistently utilize data to guide us when we are faced with decisions that impact our students and employees at Cerritos College. We know that our students, particularly our most vulnerable students, are negatively impacted when we close our physical doors to them. We never want to be premature in shutting down our physical campus; making such a decision is never easy.

Further Reduction of On-Campus Services through January 23

Now, the positivity rate in the county—and even on campus—is putting a strain on our operational capacity at the college. As such, we made the difficult decision to further reduce our physical footprint on campus. **For the next two weeks, we will move nearly all employees to work online, with an expected return to campus date of January 24.** Some departments will remain fully operational on campus, as listed below:

- Business Services
- Campus Police
- Information Technology
- Facilities
- Fiscal Services
- Purchasing
- Student Health Services
- Falcon Nest

Courses with a laboratory component (CTE, sciences, etc.) may still opt to move forward with the laboratory portion on-campus as previously planned.

We Need Your Help to Keep Our Doors Open to Students

Imagine being a student walking an empty campus during your first semester on campus in month, years, or perhaps ever. This comparatively small group of students still needs your help. **We would like to ask that you consider choosing to work on campus during these next two weeks.** We know that sometimes even the briefest encounter with a lost student can make the difference between them staying the course or dropping their classes. If you are willing to work on campus during these next two weeks, please be sure to contact your manager first so that we can coordinate efforts—preferably within the next

24 hours. Manager will continue to follow 50% campus schedule. For everyone who will be on campus, please know that the district will continue to follow our well-established safety protocols and encourage weekly testing regardless of vaccination status.

If we have learned one thing from COVID-19, it is that living amidst a pandemic is truly unpredictable. Despite the increasing number of positive cases, overall, we continue to be in a much safer position than when we initially halted most on-campus operations in 2020 through mid-2021. The combination of 1) widely available vaccinations and 2) the nature of this variant appears to keep ICU numbers low (Source: [LADPH Surveillance Dashboard](#); Hospitalizations). We continue to review this data as just one component of our overall analysis.

I want to express my sincere appreciation to everyone who continues to provide support and ideas as we navigate this uncharted territory. These are difficult decisions to make, and at the end of the day, I am always grateful that we move forward together in support of students and the community

Jose.

STAY CONNECTED



Contact President's Office: (562) 860-2451, extension 2204 | Email contact: thury@cerritos.edu