

MEMO FROM THE CHANCELLOR TO EMPLOYEES – 6.29.21

Dear Colleagues – As we prepare to fully reopen our campuses and worksites, we are sharing the most current information from the CDC, State Chancellor’s Office, Cal OSHA, and Governor Newsom’s June 15 announcement.

Phased-in Approach to Working Onsite

As stated in the March memo, the District will continue a phased-in approach to returning to onsite work. The past year has been traumatic for all of us, and it is important to balance the need to serve students face-to-face with adjustments in home life. Unless you have been approved through Human Resources for accommodations or FMLA, make plans to **begin working onsite per your supervisor’s instructions starting in August**. *NOTE: Some positions may be required to be onsite earlier depending on the preparations needs for the fall term. Per the MOU, classified employees who are scheduled to be onsite more than two days a week will receive the 10% differential until the end of December.*

The number of days employees are required to work onsite may continue to increase during the fall. By January 2022, all District employees will be expected to be back to work onsite unless another state or county-wide quarantine order is issued. Our focus continues to be serving our students with on-campus programs, classes, and services, and to encourage them to re-engage with faculty and staff for optimal success.

Physical Distancing

According to the experts, there is no longer a need to require physical distancing during our daily operations—this includes inside classrooms, libraries, offices, student service spaces, elevators, restrooms, and event venues. Cal OSHA specifically states that there are no physical distancing or barrier requirements, regardless of employee vaccination status, unless a local outbreak is identified. Signage outlining physical distancing protocols may now be removed from our campus spaces.

Face Coverings

According to the CDC and the California Department of Public Health, vaccinated individuals are no longer required to wear face coverings unless there is a local outbreak and six feet of physical distancing cannot be maintained. Given these new guidelines, the wearing of face coverings onsite will be optional for **vaccinated** employees and students effective immediately. **Unvaccinated** employees and students are still encouraged to wear face coverings while on campus. The wearing of face coverings will be the honor system, and the District will not ask for proof of vaccination to regulate face coverings. Anyone who chooses to wear a face covering for personal protection and the safety of others is encouraged to do so and should not be ridiculed for their choice.

Will Vaccinations be Mandatory?

As stated in previous memos, vaccinations will not be mandatory until and unless they are **FDA approved**. Systems and districts that have “mandated” vaccinations are all conditional on FDA approval. The April 23 announcement by the UCs and CSUs that they would impose a vaccination requirement upon students, faculty, and staff at the beginning of fall term is based on a vaccine’s “regular approval from the Food and Drug Administration and [being] sufficiently

available.” The NOCCCD Board of Trustees will begin discussions on this topic during the July 27 meeting.

We strongly encourage all employees to be vaccinated as this is the best protection against COVID-19. According to the CDC, current data suggests that the vaccines offer protection against all known variants.

Fullerton College has formed a partnership with St. Jude Medical Center to provide no cost vaccines at its campus. Cypress College has also applied to be a vaccination site and is being considered by the county, but not confirmed yet. For an up-to-date list of other vaccine distribution channels, please visit:

- <https://occovid19.ochealthinfo.com/covid-19-vaccine-distribution-channels>
- [Vaccines.gov - Find COVID-19 vaccine locations near you](https://www.vaccines.gov)
- [Benefits of Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/immization/COVID-19/vaccine-benefits/)

Evaluating and Improving Ventilation Systems

Cal OSHA has advised employers to evaluate ventilation systems to maximize outdoor air and increase filtrations efficiency, and evaluate the use of additional air cleaning systems. All campuses have upgraded their ventilation systems to be compliant with recommended health and safety precautions, implementing MERV-13 and even MERV-15 filters across our facilities, per CDC recommendations.

Testing

According to the CDC, fully vaccinated individuals can refrain from testing *as long as they are asymptomatic*.

For an up-to-date list of testing options, please visit: <https://occovid19.ochealthinfo.com/covid-19-testing>.

Reopening District Sites

All work sites will begin to reopen and be more available to students and the public starting in August. In addition to appointments, more drop-in services will be accessible based on staff availability. The class schedules for all three institutions are posted online and updates regarding services will be provided on the campus websites.

Given the new guidelines, employees and students will no longer be required to sign in when coming onsite.

Lifting of Travel Ban

The ban on District related travel will be lifted effective July 1, 2021. All normal procedures for approval of travel will resume.

Positive Case Reporting

The protocol for reporting a positive case of COVID-19 remains the same. Employees should consult their campus COVID-19 Prevention Plan for complete instructions. Fully vaccinated workers who do not have COVID-19 symptoms no longer need to be excluded for the workplace after a close contact.

Personal Responsibility

Everyone has a role to play in fostering a safe environment moving forward. All of us are expected to take personal responsibility for our own health and to respect those around us. Those coming to work onsite should continue self-screening for symptoms. As noted above, employees are to report all positive cases to their Immediate Management Supervisor and campus liaison. The District will continue to perform contact tracing and report all cases to the OCDE. All safe reopening guidelines will be posted on the [District](#) and campus websites for your convenience.

Other Resources

- [Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People | CDC](#)
- [Revisions to the COVID-19 Prevention Emergency Temporary Standards Frequently Asked Questions \(ca.gov\)](#)
- Cal OSHA: [Standards Board Readopts Revised Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Emergency Temporary Standards](#)
- [Considerations for Institutions of Higher Education \(IHEs\) \(cdc.gov\)](#)
- [NOCCCD | Employee Resources](#)

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