
From: Chancellor <chancellor@nocccd.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, February 1, 2022 3:50 PM
Subject: Chancellor's Memo: COVID Protocol Changes
Attachments: Respirator Mask Acknowledgement Form.pdf; Information for Voluntary use of N-95 Respirators EngSpanish.pdf

Dear Colleagues – As February 2022 begins, there are signs of positive changes regarding the status of the pandemic. Overall, California COVID-19 transmission rates, as well as those for Orange County, are trending downward. In a January 31 update, the California Department of Public Health reported the daily COVID-19 case rate was at 183.1 per 100,000 residents, down about 37% from a peak of 291 per 100,000. Statewide test positivity fell to 14.5% for its lowest reading of 2022, down from a peak of 23% earlier this month.

At NOCCCD we have also made substantial progress, with over 96% of our employees now cleared to be on-site in regards to the vaccine mandate. Cypress College and Fullerton College have over 99% of registered students cleared, and NOCE has 96% of its in-person students cleared. Regular on-site testing has resumed at each campus, with results turned around in one to two days. Taking all of this into account, the District is on track to welcome employees back to on-site work three days a week starting February 7, 2022.

Along with the drop in infection rates, the Orange County Health Officer published revised *Recommendations and Orders* on January 14, 2022 reducing the self-isolation and self-quarantine periods for some individuals. In response, the District IT, Student, and Employee COVID Workgroups are examining the logistics involved with changing our self-quarantine protocol from ten days to five days. Key to those discussions are issues of adequate infrastructure for testing and verification of status through our campus COVID-19 liaisons. The District expects a recommendation from the workgroups by this week, and will notify employees and students when our protocols change.

The OC Health Officer also updated face covering orders to state that “masks are required for all individuals in all indoor public settings, regardless of vaccination status until February 15, 2022.” Since NOCCCD already has an indoor mask mandate in effect, this order does not change our existing protocol. All employees, regardless of vaccination status, must wear face coverings while indoors on site, including faculty that are teaching.

There have been questions concerning the most effective type of face coverings, and what the District is able to supply. It's important to note that the Center for Disease Control (CDC) has not mandated use of N95 or KN95 masks in the workplace for schools, and that the use of such masks, whether provided from the District or not, is considered voluntary. As the District continues to make your safety a priority, we are making every effort to have these supplies available on request by employees.

If an employee does request a mask from the District, we are required by the California Code of Regulations to provide instructions and training on the proper use of the masks, and to document that the employee has received this information. (A formal fit test is not required.) Instructions for how to properly take on and off a mask are attached to this email and this [video](#) is also available for viewing at each of our websites. In order to receive a respirator mask from NOCCCD, employees must sign the attached acknowledgement of receipt and return it to their assigned campus representative. Again, the availability of these masks will depend on supplies.

In the last bit of news, Governor Gavin Newsom has announced that agreement has been reached on a framework to ensure that employees continue to have access to COVID-19 supplemental paid sick leave through September 30, 2022 (retroactive to January 1, 2022). Because this is an early budget action, we don't have all the details on when this will roll out, but this is excellent and very welcome news for all of us.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue to navigate the pandemic. My office will continue to update you as events warrant. If you have any questions, please discuss with your immediate management supervisor or contact Human Resources at hr-covid@noccd.edu.

Welcome back to campus and have a great spring semester!

Byron D. Clift Breland, Ph.D.

Chancellor

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