



Reopening the State

Dear Colleagues,

This week, Governor Gavin Newsom announced that the state would fully reopen on June 15, as long as another surge of COVID-19 cases does not occur. Businesses and organizations can operate at full capacity, although as of now face coverings will continue to be required. In its [announcement](#) about the reopening, the California Department of Public Health stated: "Schools and institutions of higher education should conduct full-time, in person instruction, in compliance with Cal/OSHA emergency temporary standards and public health guidelines."

Some institutions of higher education, such as UC San Diego and San Diego State University, have already announced they will primarily be offering classes and services in person in the fall. In addition, several community college districts throughout the state are planning to be fully in-person in the fall, while others, including our District, are taking a more cautious approach planning for a partial return to in-person classes.

For the past months, our District has been planning for a phased return to in-person classes and services at some level this fall. Through the [DEC Emergency Response Planning Group](#), broadly represented teams for facilities, employee relations, instruction, and student services, have developed recommendations to ensure a safe return to the campuses that were shared in my last communication. Key areas of focus continue to be vaccinations, testing, and safe workspaces that are adequately distanced and properly ventilated.

Over the next several months, we will begin to incrementally bring back employees to work at the campuses, with employee and student safety our top priority. Planning is underway at the colleges to offer more in-person classes and support services in the fall, assuming that the public health situation continues to be promising. This spring, Grossmont College will be opening its Tech Mall to students by appointment, and beginning in June Cuyamaca College will be setting up an outdoor information center on campus to assist students. In addition, both colleges are in the process of working out the logistics for free on-campus testing for students, employees and the public.

We value your feedback as we work with our constituent groups to continue our careful and methodical planning for returning to the campuses in an environment of ongoing uncertainty. The complexity of this effort cannot be overstated.

I encourage you to send your comments about returning to the campuses through this [short survey](#) form and/or reach out to your constituent leaders to help inform our planning efforts.

Our community and students want to see our campuses open and thriving again. I look forward to working together to make this a reality.

Thank you for your continued patience and support.

Lynn

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