



September 3, 2021

### **Return to Campus Update**

Dear Colleagues,

It is so nice to witness our campuses slowly come back to life this fall. In recent weeks, we started to see students once again walking around campus, cars in parking lots, and in-person meetings where I frequently hear how great it is to be together again.

This gradual return to pre-pandemic levels of activity will continue to move at a thoughtful pace this fall as we transition to full pre-pandemic operations in January 2022.

The health and safety of our employees and students remains of central importance as we continue to adjust to evolving COVID-19 public health guidance and recommendations. Although we have seen a number of positive cases on our campuses, I am grateful that none of our community's COVID-19 positive cases have been critical.

With the fall semester well underway, I want to ensure that all District employees are up-to-date on our latest pandemic-related plans and protocols.

#### **Return to On-Campus Schedules**

On August 2, I advised that beginning August 16, all employees were expected to work on campus a minimum of two days a week as we transition back to pre-pandemic operations in January. In addition, I indicated that many employees have already returned to campus at or near full-time to meet the business and safety needs of the District.

The next phase of our return to campus was scheduled for September 20, when we planned to increase on-campus work schedules to a minimum of three days a week. However, the Chancellor's Cabinet has decided to **delay the timeline for returning three days a week** to allow more time to:

- Address requests to accommodate individual employees' schedules and personal needs
- Bolster our capacity for contact tracing and follow-up
- Ensure compliance with our COVID-19 protocols, including weekly testing/validation of vaccination status

The Chancellor's Cabinet will remain vigilant in monitoring the health and safety of our campuses, along with student needs for on-campus services in the coming months, and reassess our plan for gradually returning this fall. We will keep you informed.

## Public Events and Visitors on Campus

We are proud of our long history of close connections with the community and are anxious to actively re-engage in the months ahead. In an effort to support our community, we are carefully reviewing requests for the use of our facilities and community involvement in college events.

Following is the status of our planning to date:

- Athletic events: Our college athletic directors and deans are developing a plan regarding spectators at athletic events. Until that plan is in place, we are for now not permitting spectators at either indoor or outdoor athletic events. Visiting teams are being informed of our current limitations pending the final plan.
- Performances and other college-sponsored events: Our college presidents are reviewing each proposed event to ensure plans are in place to meet the District's COVID-19 protocols. This analysis will determine if an event is safe to hold.
- Community events: Our college presidents are reviewing the feasibility of each event request based upon a number of factors, including event size, expected participation, and our ability to ensure compliance with COVID-19 protocols.
- High school and partner university classes: Since these programs are generally self-contained, the college presidents are assessing each situation and determining whether District or partner institution protocols apply in cases where students are on campus.

## Face Coverings

Face coverings remain an essential part of our COVID-19 protocols. The District will continue to require masks that cover the nose and mouth at all times **indoors**, regardless of vaccination status. The exception is if you are working alone in a one-person office with a closed door.

While **outdoors**, face coverings must also be worn unless a 6-foot distance from others can be maintained at all times, regardless of vaccination status. This also applies during classes held outdoors.

## COVID-19 Exposures

The District has received a number of reports of positive COVID-cases in the past few months. In each case, we conduct careful contact tracing to identify anyone who may have been in contact with the individual who tested positive. Once contact tracing is complete, we share our findings with San Diego County Public Health Services, whose staff provides guidance on follow-up actions. We follow the County's guidance carefully, while assessing each individual circumstance.

If an **employee** thinks they may have been exposed to COVID-19, please immediately report the exposure to Cheryl Detwiler in Human Resources at 619-644-7571 or [cheryl.detwiler@gcccd.edu](mailto:cheryl.detwiler@gcccd.edu).

To report a potential **student** exposure, contact Student Health Services at Grossmont College at [grossmont.health@gcccd.edu](mailto:grossmont.health@gcccd.edu) or 619-644-7192, or for Cuyamaca College, [rieko.suto@gcccd.edu](mailto:rieko.suto@gcccd.edu), [julia.chavez@gcccd.edu](mailto:julia.chavez@gcccd.edu) or 619-660-4200.

### **COVID Testing for Employees**

To continue to protect our work environment, **employees** must provide proof of vaccination or weekly negative COVID-19 test results. Human Resources is diligently monitoring compliance with weekly testing and following up with individual employees as needed.

Free on campus testing is available for employees who require weekly testing. Employees can register through [this link](#). Testing is available on the following schedule beginning next week:

- Grossmont College (Bldg. 60): Monday 2 – 7 p.m., Tuesday 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., and Wednesday 1 – 5 p.m.
- Cuyamaca College (in Annex #1 starting Tuesday September 7): Monday 12 – 7 p.m., Tuesday 7 – 11 a.m., and Wednesday 1 – 5 p.m.

**Note: Testing is not available on Monday, September 6 due to the Labor Day holiday**

Thank you again for your perseverance and support for our students and each other as we continue navigate the ongoing challenges of the pandemic.

With gratitude,

***Lynn***

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