



Return to Campus Update

November 16, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

An early Happy Thanksgiving to you.

Thank you for your steadfast resilience as we have navigated the many ups and downs of the last nearly two years. These continue to be challenging times for our District community as we grapple with some very difficult decisions to ensure the safety of our students and employees. I am confident that we will move forward together and emerge even stronger.

As we approach the holiday season, I want to share several important updates on a new District day of observance, as well as spring initiatives and return to campus plans.

Marking a Historic Milestone: Juneteenth

From here forward, the District will formally observe Juneteenth National Independence Day each year. Juneteenth marks the anniversary of a momentous occasion on June 19, 1865, when slavery ended in our country.

Last June, the federal government designated the national holiday on a day of the week that the District was closed. Therefore, to commemorate this milestone in history this year, the Governing Board last week supported my proposal to observe the Juneteenth holiday for 2021 on December 23, 2021. In future years, Juneteenth will be included in the development of the academic calendar following state guidelines.

To learn more about the history and importance of Juneteenth, check out [the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History & Culture resources](#).

Return to Campus

Spring 2022

We continue to gear up for a full return to campus starting **January 4, 2022**. We have spent many months preparing, with the safety and health of our community as our top priority. I am very much looking forward to our campuses coming alive again. To meet student need, we are planning to offer about 50-60 percent of classes either in person or hybrid (online and in person).

Priority student registration started this week. One of our most pressing priorities is reconnecting with students and members of our community. Along those lines, we launched a new email marketing campaign last week to encourage more students to sign up for courses for the spring. In addition, we

are planning enrollment management workshops on each of our campuses in the spring focusing on student re-engagement and impactful strategies for student access and success.

COVID-19 Vaccine Requirements

After a great deal of thought and consideration, last week we became the last community college district in San Diego County to adopt a COVID-19 vaccine requirement for all employees, students and others using District services or facilities. The Governing Board voted to direct implementation of the requirement. We are beginning the planning process, and that will take careful preparation and time to complete.

While there are no specific plans yet for what the requirement will mean for unvaccinated employees, the District will carry out the Governing Board's direction. Human Resources will work with union leaders to develop implementation plans. In the coming days, you will receive additional information on the timeline to submit vaccination documentation or request an exemption from the vaccine requirement.

I want stress that the decision to require vaccinations was not reached easily. We respect that some hold deep convictions in opposition to this requirement. We put a great deal of care and analysis into our decision, with health and safety being our top priority.

Free On-Campus COVID-19 and Flu Vaccine Events

Cuyamaca College will host three free on-campus COVID-19 and flu vaccination events November 22, December 6 and January 10. The events are open to all, and sponsored by the nonprofit Champions for Health. All three brands of COVID-19 vaccines will be available: Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson, as well as the flu vaccine. Participants can receive first, second or booster doses of the COVID-19 vaccine at these times and locations:

- Monday, November 22, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in front of B building
- Monday, December 6, 2:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Student Quad
- Monday, January 10, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in front of B Building

The **Grossmont Health & Wellness Center** will host a COVID-19 and Flu vaccination clinic next month, and then on various dates through the spring semester. The events are open to all, and booster shots are available. Times and locations include:

- Thursday, December 2, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Griffin Gate
- Wednesday, January 26, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Parking Lot #1
- Wednesday, February 23, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Griffin Gate
- Wednesday, March 23, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Griffin Gate

COVID-19 and Ventilation Updates

COVID-19 news and resources are available through a [special section of the District's website](#). There, you can find [COVID-19 case information](#), updates on the [District's ventilation project](#), and more. Information is updated weekly.

New Initiatives for the Spring

I am pleased to announce three new initiatives that will be launching this spring designed to provide access and some flexibility to employees.

First, I will be holding open office hours monthly, beginning early spring, for you to stop by and talk in person. I started in my role here less than two months before COVID-19 pushed us into remote operations, and I look forward to the opportunity to connect or even meet for the first time.

Second, the Governing Board plans to hold in-person, open-door sessions for employees and the public to meet individually with board members. The first session is tentatively planned for February. The sessions will offer a chance to briefly interact with our trustees. The dates and times will be publicly noticed on Governing Board agendas, and held before Governing Board meetings.

Third, the District will begin developing policies, procedures and guidelines for flexible work options for some employees. Human Resources will lead the effort to craft a new policy, working with our labor and constituent leaders. The tentative goal is to have something in place in fall 2022.

Giving Back

Finally, a stunning 50 percent of community college students in San Diego County face food insecurity. Once again this year, we are partnering with Cal Coast Credit Union, the San Diego Food Bank and other districts across the region to put on the Pack the Pantry food drive. Through November 30, 2021, we are raising money to restock food supplies for our students. You can donate online at [Cal Coast Credit Union's Pack the Pantry 2021](#) and select the Grossmont or Cuyamaca logos to contribute to our colleges.

Again, thank you so much for rising to the challenges of the last nearly two years. I am grateful to be part of a remarkable community here at GCCCD, where students have always been at the center of our mission.

I hope that you get some downtime during the Thanksgiving holiday to enjoy friends and loved ones.

With gratitude,

Lynn

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