



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LACCD DECLARES STATE OF EMERGENCY, DISTRICT ACTIVATES ITS EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER EFFECTIVELY IMMEDIATELY

LOS ANGELES—Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) Board of Trustees President Andra Hoffman today announced that the Board unanimously approved Chancellor Francisco C. Rodriguez's recommendation to declare a State of Emergency for the District and its nine colleges. The action allows the Chancellor to activate the District's Emergency Operations Center to coordinate with the colleges for resources, business operations, security and other issues during the declared emergency in a streamlined and efficient manner. The declaration is attached to this news release and posted online.

Chancellor Rodriguez said the District has been planning and consulting continuously for the past several weeks in anticipation of an emergency declaration. Steps taken to date include:

- Preparations to immediately act districtwide on official shut-down orders from health officials, the state or federal governments.
- Establish Incident Command Centers at all nine colleges last week in preparation for coordinated districtwide emergency operations. This includes daily meetings with all College Presidents, the Chancellor and District executive staff.
- Activation of the District's Emergency Operations Center, working directly with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Community College Bureau in preparation of full operations effective Thursday, March 19.
- Immediate transition of classes to a remote learning environment to begin on March 30.
- Identifying essential business operations and transitioning them to a remote environment as soon as possible. Key business continuity services include executive, police services, finance/payroll and accounts payable, legal and Information Technology.
- Transitioning of all staff to work remotely.
- Coordinating with the BuildLACCD construction program for impacts to building projects at the colleges.
- Buying several thousand laptops for students and District personnel for remote learning, business services and working from home.
- Coordinating with The Foundation for the Los Angeles Community Colleges to raise donations through philanthropy to purchase additional laptops and food for students.
- Securing additional resources to assist in districtwide emergency communications and in other areas of essential support.

Currently, the District has no confirmed reports or notices from the [Los Angeles County Department of Public Health](#) (LACDPH) that any LACCD personnel or students have COVID-19, but the situation is rapidly changing and health officials have warned all county residents that community transmission is happening and undetected.

"Our immediate priority, concern and focus is on the health and safety of our students, staff and faculty, nothing is more important," Board President Andra Hoffman said. "We already have many people working from home, and we are making the transition to work remotely from home for the rest of our personnel. I firmly believe that if we take immediate and appropriate action now to reduce the spread of this virus and flatten the curve, our students, staff and faculty will come back stronger than ever when this passes."

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2-2-2/DISTRICT DECLARES STATE OF EMERGENCY, ACTIVATES EOC 3/18/20

The changes and updated responses impact about 150,000 students, faculty and staff during the Spring 2020 Semester and could extend into the summer and fall sessions as well. The District's colleges include [Los Angeles City College](#), [East Los Angeles College](#), [Los Angeles Harbor College](#), [Los Angeles Mission College](#), [Los Angeles Pierce College](#), [Los Angeles Southwest College](#), [Los Angeles Trade-Technical College](#), [Los Angeles Valley College](#) and [West Los Angeles College](#).

The colleges and the District's Office will remain open with very limited services for an undetermined period for continuity of operations. The [previously announced plan](#) for faculty professional development to transition to distance education was expanded to this full week, March 16-20.

The colleges are currently evaluating the availability the Student Health Centers, the Child Development Centers and the on-campus food pantries. Most of the Child Development Centers, for example, will be closing early this week due to lack of demand. Updated information about the health centers and food pantries will be announced as soon as possible.

All updated information will continue to be posted on the District's website: www.laccd.edu/coronavirus. All of the websites maintained by the colleges have links directing viewers to this same webpage for the same information.

The District's main social media platforms are also being used to push our District information and shared information from other official government and public health sources, including Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LACCD/> and Twitter: <https://twitter.com/laccd>. Regular email communication from the Chancellor and District Offices are being sent to faculty and staff and the colleges are using the same information to send to their students.

Other measures already in place for LACCD include the suspension of all non-essential travel by District and College executives and deans. The travel restrictions are currently under review for expansion to all LACCD personnel and students.

Statewide information for the California Community College is at: <https://www.cccco.edu/About-Us/Chancellors-Office/Divisions/Communications-and-Marketing/Novel-Coronavirus>

Prevention and Hygiene recommendations from LACDPH continues to be:

- If you are sick for any reason, stay home!
- If sick, self-monitor and call your primary healthcare provider for advice.
- Symptoms to watch for include a fever over 100.4 degrees; cough or shortness of breath
- Frequent and complete hand washing for at least 20 seconds
- Stay six feet or more from strangers and those who are ill
- Stop shaking hands with others to reduce the spread of germs
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- Sneeze and cough into a tissue or your sleeve, safely throw away used tissues

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About the Los Angeles Community College District

We are the Colleges of Los Angeles! LACCD (www.laccd.edu) is the nation's largest community college district, educating about 250,000 students annually at its nine colleges that serve the residents of more than 36 cities and communities from 900 square miles of Los Angeles County. Since 1969, the District has been providing an important learning pathway for students seeking transfer to four-year colleges or universities while also offering two-year degrees and certificated training programs to Southern California's diverse workforce in many specialized trades and professions. Follow us on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/LACCD>, @LACCD, and on Twitter, <https://twitter.com/laccd> @laccd and Instagram, https://www.instagram.com/laccd_edu/ laccd_edu

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**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
RESOLUTION NO.**

COVID-19 EMERGENCY PLANS

WHEREAS on January 23, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control activated its Emergency Response System to provide ongoing support for the response to COVID-19 across the country; and

WHEREAS on January 24, 2020, the California Department of Public Health activated its Medical and Health Coordination Center and on March 2, 2020, the Office of Emergency Services activated the State Operations Center to support and guide state and local actions to preserve public health; and

WHEREAS on March 4, 2020, the Governor of California declared a State of Emergency due to the outbreak and spread of a novel coronavirus (COVID-19); and

WHEREAS on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 to be a worldwide pandemic; and

WHEREAS on March 11, 2020, the Governor of California called for the cancellation of gatherings of more than 250 people to slow the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS as of March 11, 2020, the President of the United States restricted travel to and from certain countries around the world; and

WHEREAS on March 12, 2020, the Governor of California issued Executive Order No. 25-20, waiving certain statutory requirements of state and local agencies including waiving certain requirements of the Brown Act; and

WHEREAS on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a National Emergency and proclaimed that the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States constituted a national emergency; and

WHEREAS on March 14, 2020, the Los Angeles Community College District suspended all classes from March 16 through March 29 and moved the District's Spring Break to run from March 23 through March 29; and

WHEREAS on March 14, 2020, the Los Angeles Community College District suspended in-person services at the colleges, from March 16 through March 29; and

WHEREAS as of March 18, 2020, institutions of higher education across California and the United States have been taking measure to slow the spread of COVID-19 by cancelling classes and transitioning classes to alternative formats, among other measures; and

WHEREAS as of March 18, 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to be a dynamic situation that is changing by the minute with varying current and future impacts on local, state, national,

and global communities and governments that include public health emergencies, restrictions on movement, and anticipated economic setbacks; and

WHEREAS guidance provided to institutions of higher education throughout California and the United States considers the temporary transition of courses, instruction, and other operations to an online and/or telecommuting environment to be an effective measure against the threat of COVID-19; and, in accordance with such guidance, various institutions of higher education, including community college districts in California, have or are planning to temporarily transition courses, instruction, and other operations to an online and/or telecommuting environment; and

WHEREAS strict compliance with various statutes, regulations and contractual agreements could prevent, hinder or delay appropriate actions on the part of the Los Angeles Community College District to prevent and mitigate the effects of COVID-19, and to continue to provide educational opportunities to students; and

WHEREAS it is imperative for the Los Angeles Community College District to prepare for and implement measures to respond to the threat and potential spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS it is imperative that the Chancellor have the tools necessary to ensure the health and safety of Los Angeles Community College District students and employees and to ensure that student learning continues if student education should be conducted from alternate locations or virtual learning environments; and

WHEREAS the protection of the health and safety and preservation of the lives and property of the people of the State of California from the effects of natural emergencies such as COVID-19, which may result in conditions of disaster or in extreme peril to life, property, and resources is of paramount importance requiring the responsible efforts of public and private agencies and individual citizens, and all public employees required to serve as disaster service workers subject to such disaster service activities as may be assigned to them by their superiors or by law under Government Code section 3100; and

WHEREAS Section 8558 subdivision (b) of the Government Code defines “state of emergency” to mean the duly proclaimed existence of conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the state caused by conditions as air pollution, fire, flood, storm, epidemic, riot, drought, cyberterrorism, sudden and severe energy shortage, plant or animal infestation or disease, the Governor's warning of an earthquake or volcanic prediction, or an earthquake, or other conditions, other than conditions resulting from a labor controversy or conditions causing a “state of war emergency,” which, by reason of their magnitude, are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of any single county, city and county, or city and require the combined forces of a mutual aid region or regions to combat, or with respect to regulated energy utilities, a sudden and severe energy shortage requires extraordinary measures beyond the authority vested in the California Public Utilities Commission.

WHEREAS Section 1102 of the Public Contract Code defines “emergency” to mean a “sudden, unexpected occurrence that poses a clear and imminent danger, requiring immediate action to prevent or mitigate the loss or impairment of life, health, property, or essential public services,” and section 21060.3 of the Public Resources Code and California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines, 14 California Code of Regulations section 15269(c) defines “emergency” to mean “a sudden, unexpected occurrence, involving a clear and imminent danger, demanding immediate action to prevent or mitigate loss of, or damage to, life, health, property, or essential public services;” and

WHEREAS under California Public Contract Code section 20654 and California Public Contract Code section 22050, in an emergency when any repairs, alterations, work, or improvement is necessary to any facility of a community college to permit the continuance of existing community college classes, or to avoid danger to life or property, the Board may, by unanimous vote, with the approval of the county superintendent of schools, do the following: make a contract in writing or otherwise on behalf the District for the performance of labor and furnishing of materials or supplies for the purpose without advertising for or inviting bids; notwithstanding California Public Contract Code section 20655; and

WHEREAS the Los Angeles Community College District Unit collective bargaining agreements contain provisions that allows for the amendment, modification, or rescinding of the policies and practices under those Agreements in cases of an emergency only with the expressed agreement through the collective bargaining process; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees hereby determines that the circumstances described in this Resolution constitute an emergency for purposes of, including, but not limited to the Education Code, Government Code and Public Contract Code and the Los Angeles Community College District’s collective bargaining agreements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees authorizes the Chancellor or his designee to take any and all actions necessary to help ensure the continuation of public education and the health and safety of students and employees, including, but not limited to:

- i. The relocation of students and staff;
- ii. Implementing telecommute options for employees;
- iii. Provision of alternative education programs and operational options including, without limitation, cancelling classes, temporarily transitioning courses and instruction to alternative delivery formats including by not limited to an online or telecommuting environment and mode of operation;
- iv. Provision of leaves of absence to impacted employees, with pay as determined by the Chancellor for this emergency period, in accordance with Education Code sections 87765 and 88199; Impacted employees are those who may fall below full pay status because of a lack of sick leave or vacation balances.
- v. Directing employees to serve as disaster service workers pursuant to Government Code 3100, and to complete duties as assigned by their supervisors; and

- vi. Any other actions necessary to help ensure the continuation of public education and the health and safety of students and employees related to the COVID-19 emergency declaration.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Chancellor, in consultation with the Board President, shall timely report to the Board of Trustees all actions taken under the authority of this Resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall remain in effect until rescinded by majority vote of the Board of Trustees or the State of California Emergency Declaration on COVID-19 is rescinded.

PASSED AND ADOPTED upon motion of Trustee _____ seconded by Trustee _____ at a special meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Los Angeles Community College District on this 18th day of March 2020, by the following vote: