



## **COVID-19 News and Updates Heading Into Thanksgiving 2020**

**November 17, 2020**

Greetings. This message is being sent to all LACCD Faculty and Staff via the District's Emergency Operations Center. There has been a flurry of developments—good and bad—regarding the COVID-19 coronavirus as we head into Thanksgiving and the year-end Holiday Season. The following is a re-cap of events, news and issues that have popped just within the past few days. There are links below for more details.

### **COVID-19 Surging**

New cases of COVID-19 are surging in Los Angeles County, in much of California and throughout the United States. [Direct from LA County Public Health](#): "Over the weekend, Public Health reported a total of 6,841 new cases; 3,780 new cases for Saturday and 3,061 new cases for Sunday. The County has not experienced daily numbers like this since late July, during the last surge that resulted in many people becoming very seriously ill and losing their lives to COVID-19." On Monday—usually the day of the week with the lowest numbers reported—nearly 2,800 new cases were reported. We currently have had a total of nearly 343,000 cases and 7,300 deaths since the pandemic began in March. The new cases are putting a significant strain on hospitals and medical resources.

### **Travel Warnings Issued**

The Governors of California, Oregon and Washington last week jointly issued *strong warnings against travel for the Thanksgiving Holiday next week*. While certainly disappointing news for thousands of people, the messages from the West Coast were echoed by governors and mayors across the nation as "warning bells and whistles" are sounding on increase cases and the impact on hospitals to deal with the surge.

Newsom's message can be found [here](#). His warning is based on the statewide Health Advisory from the California Department of Public Health. The [Health Advisory](#) is effective immediately and remains valid until further notice, according to the state's Health Department. The official Travel Advisory states:

*Persons arriving in California from other states or Californians returning from other states or countries could increase the risk of COVID-19 spread. In addition, travel itself can be a risk for exposure to COVID-19, particularly travel through shared conveyance such as air, bus or rail travel.*

## *Travel Advisory for Non-Essential Travel.*

1. *Persons arriving in California from other states or countries, including returning California residents, should practice self-quarantine for 14 days after arrival.* *These persons should limit their interactions to their immediate household. This recommendation does not apply to individuals who cross state or country borders for essential travel.*
2. *Californians are encouraged to stay home or in their region and avoid non-essential travel to other states or countries. Avoiding travel can reduce the risk of virus transmission and bringing the virus back to California.*

*“Non-essential travel” includes travel that is considered tourism or recreational in nature. “Essential travel” includes: work and study, critical infrastructure support, economic services and supply chains, health, immediate medical care, and safety and security.*

### **Emergency Brakes are On**

Most of California has now returned to the Purple / Tier 1 Status of restrictions due to COVID-19 effective [immediately per the Governor](#). The status change impacts business operations and public access to them. L.A. County has never gotten out of Tier 1 and now city, county and state officials say they are looking into even more restrictive curfews or other measures for L.A. County and elsewhere—stay alert and be prepared for those developments.

### **Masks: Like Them or Not, Please Wear to Save Lives**

The State has now updated its guidance mandates that a face covering is required at all times when outside of the home. Some exceptions apply and the full 4-1-1 is here to read, please.

[Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings](#)

### **A Ray of Hope & Good News**

Both [Moderna and Pfizer](#) say test results show effective rates exceeding more than 90 percent for their COVID-19 vaccines. (Moderna at nearly 95 percent and [Pfizer](#) more than 90 percent). The L.A. Times quoted Dr. Anthony Fauci saying the results are “truly striking.” Fauci, the U.S. government’s top infectious diseases expert, said the vaccines “are really the light at the end of the tunnel.” Good, and welcome news, to be sure, however, more testing is needed and mass quantities of any vaccine is still several months away for the general population. Distribution and other logistics remain and priority will be given to healthcare workers and the most vulnerable populations first.

### **Reminders**

Health Officials urge:

- Re-think your holiday plans and cancel any plans for travel outside the region in the coming weeks.

- If you plan to celebrate Thanksgiving with others not in your household, celebrate outdoors with only two other households and use social distancing for eating.
- Stay home as much as possible for the next two to three weeks, except for accessing essential services, especially older people and anyone with serious underlying health conditions. When possible, try to use delivery services for groceries and medicines.
- Wear masks and keep your distance both indoors and outdoors as much as possible.
- If you are positive or a close contact of someone who is positive, follow Public Health Orders to isolate or quarantine.
- If you have engaged in risky activities where you may have been exposed in a crowd with people who weren't wearing masks and distancing, please self-quarantine for 14 days.
- Frequently wash or sanitize your hands.
- Practice safe handling for raw meats and poultry.