



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**LACCD SHIFTING CLASSES TO ONLINE INSTRUCTION EFFECTIVE MARCH 18**

LOS ANGELES—Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) Chancellor Francisco C. Rodriguez, Ph.D., today announced that as many classes as possible will be moved into an online education platform for all nine colleges, including [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](#).

Online instruction is expected to begin on Wednesday, March 18, 2020. During this time, all LACCD colleges and the District will remain open, subject to the direction of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health ([LACDPH](#)) or the California Department of Public Health. As of March 11, 2020, LACCD has no confirmed evidence or official notice from health officials about any coronavirus cases or exposure risks related to any of the District's colleges or facilities.

“Out of an abundance of caution, the Los Angeles Community College District is making these changes to protect the health and safety of our students, faculty and staff and to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19,” Rodriguez said. “We stand united with our higher education colleagues locally and throughout the nation that safety is our top priority as part of our mission to provide excellent educational opportunities for our students. Prudence needs to prevail here.”

On March 16-17, all classes at all colleges will be canceled to provide two days of professional development and training for faculty to access and teach in the online platform, Canvas, and other platforms such as Zoom. Faculty may attend the training sessions at any LACCD college and will not be required to drive to their college of employment.

Effective March 16 through April 13, all public events and other activities estimated to draw more than 100 people at any of LACCD's colleges and District facilities will be postponed, modified or possibly canceled. This change is in accordance with LACDPH recommendations to increase social distancing and to [limit large events](#). All athletic events are also under review. No decision has been made regarding cancellation, modification or postponement of graduation ceremonies for any of the colleges currently planned for June 9.

There will be some exceptions for courses that do not lend well to an online format, especially for career education programs. Exceptions and other modifications are under review for hands-on labs, performance classes, adult education classes and physical education/kinesiology courses.

LACCD Board of Trustees President Andra Hoffman said the Board supports these changes. “The Board of Trustees fully supports the proactive leadership of the District and Colleges during this time of uncertainty. We want to assure our students, faculty, staff and the entire campus community that their health and welfare is our primary concern,” Board President Hoffman said.

The changes will remain in effect until at least April 13. LACCD officials will continuously evaluate the status of the transition to the online platform. LACCD will also evaluate the ongoing impacts to the District due to the local public health emergency declared by LACDPH and the recent declaration made March 11 by the World Health Organization that the situation is now considered to be an official worldwide pandemic.

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

LACCD will activate an Online Learning Call Center to help students and faculty with specific online education questions or concerns. The Online Learning Call Center will be open starting Wednesday, March 18 and will operate from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday, using the toll free number: (844) MyLACCD or (844) 695-2223.

For all other calls regarding coronavirus and COVID-19 as it relates specifically to LACCD, the telephone number to call is (213) 221-5112. Or, send an email to [coronavirusinfo@laccd.edu](mailto:coronavirusinfo@laccd.edu). For general information about the virus, county health officials ask the public to call 2-1-1.

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.

Additional information is being posted to the District's main social media accounts, Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LACCD/> and Twitter: <https://twitter.com/laccd>. Statewide information for the California Community College system on this situation can be found at: <https://www.cccco.edu/About-Us/Chancellors-Office/Divisions/Communications-andMarketing/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](http://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/](https://www.instagram.com/laccd_edu/) @laccd\_edu.*

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