For Immediate Release:
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COVID-19 Continues to Spread in L.A. County; Colleges and Universities Must Continue Distance Learning

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health announced it will adhere to guidance from the California Department of Public Health, which recommends that counties with high levels of community transmission of COVID-19 limit the reopening of colleges and universities.

Colleges and universities in Los Angeles County will not be able to resume all in-person academic instruction, at this time. Institutions may continue to offer in person training and instruction for essential workforce for required activities that cannot be accomplished through virtual learning. All other academic instruction must continue to be done via distance-learning as specified in the [County's Protocols for Institutes of Higher Education](#).

Faculty and other staff may come to campus for the purpose of providing distance learning, and other activities related to the purposes above, as well as maintaining minimum basic operations. The institution must comply with all relevant portions of the [County's Protocols for Institutes of Higher Education](#) to maximize safety for all employees.

Colleges and universities should also limit their on-campus student residency, but may continue to provide housing for students who have no alternative housing options. For students enrolled in programs providing training and instruction for essential workforce, on campus housing should be offered only to students who must participate in in-person instruction in order to complete their training and who do not have alternative local housing options. For student athletes who are participating in on campus sports, campus housing should be offered in the small training cohorts as recommended by the state guidance.

Collegiate sports may only proceed in compliance with all the California Department of Public Health [Specific Interim Guidance for Collegiate Athletics.](#)

"I know that this is disheartening news for our students who were looking forward to life on campus. But this decision means that we will continue to slow the spread of COVID-19 and get to the point where we can return to campus," said Barbara Ferrer, PhD, MPH, MEd, Director of Public Health. "Colleges and universities are an important driver of innovation, cultural vibrancy, and economic activity in the County. At the same time, the very nature of the way that colleges and universities operate creates a significant risk of outbreaks of COVID-19 among students, faculty and staff. And these risks extend beyond campus into the broader community. That is why we have made the difficult, but necessary decision to limit the reopening of these important institutions."

Los Angeles County will continue to monitor the data to guide the reopening journey for this, and other, critical sectors.

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Los Angeles County Department of Public Health works to protect health, prevent disease, and promote health and well-being.