



DATE: March 15, 2020
TO: CLPCCD Classified Professionals and Administrators
FROM: Interim Chancellor Ronald Gerhard, CLPCCD
President Susan Sperling, Chabot College
President Dyrell Foster, Las Positas College
SUBJECT: COVID-19 Update

Dear Classified Professionals and Administrators,

I, along with our Presidents, Dr. Susan Sperling and Dr. Dyrell Foster, want to take this time to thank you for all you continue to do in support of our students, colleges, district and communities we serve. It is recognized that without your dedicated service, our district office and colleges could not operate to provide instruction and services to our students. I want you to know that your work is deeply appreciated. Please know that our goal continues to be the health and safety of our employees and students, but yet still be able, to the degree that we can, to continue to offer uninterrupted instruction and student service support to our students.

Phase one, of our emergency response, was to decrease exposure to the largest groups of people which led us to focus on decreasing the number of students on campus. The action of temporarily changing the mode of instruction, decreases the overall population on each campus approximately by 3,500 people per day. Additionally, the suspension of all events and large group gatherings continues to ensure that we have less people on our campuses. Phase two, and as we plan for phase three, we have managers and administrators reviewing functions and duties that can be done remotely. We hope that this inventory and review, as warranted, will inform our upcoming emergency response actions.

As we continue to respond to this emergency situation, please remember that if you need special accommodations (for example: health issues, child or elder care, etc.) please discuss and work with your immediate supervisor to discuss options and solutions.

As this Covid-19 emergency situation continues to unfold, I'd like to share with you my thoughts on our continued planning and implementation.

Current Strategy: As I mentioned above, phase one of our emergency response was to move most of our instruction from face-to-face to an alternative mode of instruction. This difficult decision was made to reduce the risk of exposure and spread of the COVID-19 virus for all members of the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District. This action protects classified, faculty, and administrative personnel alike as it significantly reduces the number of people

gathering in public spaces. This action is consistent with all guidance received from federal, state, and local health and education authorities. Simply, fewer people, fewer interactions, equates to less risk for those on campus. We see this as a temporary action in response to this community health challenge.

As of today, there are seven confirmed cases of the COVID-19 virus in Alameda County and no confirmed cases within the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District. With this information, we want to continue to serve our students as best we can, following all relevant and appropriate requirements and guidelines. Please refer to my [March 13th district communication](#) where it outlines actions to be taken to further reduce the risk of exposure, for example social distancing tips and use of alternative methods to communicate and interact.

Strategies under review: We continue to monitor daily bulletins, communications and situation reports from all relevant and authoritative sources. District and college leadership are working tirelessly to review options to respond to additional safety precautions for employees and students. As I mentioned above, we are reviewing all functions, for classified, faculty and administrators, across the district. As facts and circumstances warrant, those options, in response to the next part of our emergency response, may include: if possible, the option to work remotely, work in isolation on campus, and/or complete closure. During this time of transition, our students will continue to seek and need to access our services. District and college leadership are also reviewing office hours and options to provide student services in a variety of modalities.

On behalf of our Presidents, your concerns, feedback and ideas shared with our district and college leadership have been heard. We are listening, and please know that we are working to respond to the needs of our district (classified professionals, faculty, administrators, students and community). In the meantime, thank you for all you do in support of our students, even now in the most challenging of times. Our students need you; we need you. We are all navigating through untraveled terrain, but I'm certain that together, we will get through this difficult period stronger than ever before.

Please continue to follow the recommendations for social distancing washing your hands, covering your face when coughing and sneezing, and if sick, please stay at home.

Regards,

Ron Gerhard
Interim Chancellor

Dr. Susan Sperling
President, Chabot College

Dr. Dyrell Foster
President, Las Positas College