



DATE: May 8, 2020
TO: Chabot-Las Positas Community College District
FROM: Chancellor Ronald Gerhard, CLPCCD
President Susan Sperling, Chabot College
President Dyrell Foster, Las Positas College
SUBJECT: COVID-19 Update

Dear Colleagues:

Well, it's officially May, which means warmer weather, Mother's Day is around the corner, and the State will also be coming out with their May budget revise. Obviously, this month is important for a finance wonk like me, but, as you can imagine, it is even more significant this year because of the impending recession this COVID-19 crisis has caused, not only statewide, but nationally. So, there is much on our minds for this month, from working on what our fall planning looks like to enrollment management and the State economy.

But, I do not want to be completely doom and gloom—this weekend is Mother's Day, so Happy Mother's Day to all! I hope you are able to celebrate the occasion in your own special way.

The following are some updates for this week (as of May 8, 2020):

Planning for fall semester is in progress: We continue to discuss and plan various scenarios that include the continuation of remote instruction to offering a combination of hybrid face-to-face and remote instruction. There are three scenarios being considered:

First scenario: Distance education only (as we did for the spring and summer semesters).

Second scenario: Limited hybrid and distance education. This scenario would include face-to-face instruction for hard to convert classes, labs, or specific disciplines/programs, while still adhering to social distancing guidelines.

Third scenario: Expanded hybrid and distance education. This scenario would include face-to-face instruction for as many sections as possible while still adhering to social distancing guidelines.

What does this planning process look like? There is a districtwide taskforce that will make a recommendation to the district and college leadership within the next two weeks. We anticipate making a public announcement before the end of the month. Our goal in planning is to be thoughtful and deliberate with a decision that best serves the needs of *our* students.

State Budget Update and Impact: Thursday, the Department of Finance began to release data projections on the fiscal impact of COVID-19. This data sets the framework for the May Revision forecast and attempts to quantify the enormous impact and hardship this pandemic has caused for families, communities, businesses and our state.

In summary, the CA Department of Finance is projecting a state budget deficit of \$54.3 billion over the next 14 months. To address a budget deficit of this magnitude, the state will most likely need to use a combination of reserves (rainy day fund), deferrals (IOUs similar to those used during the Great Recession), and cuts. Presently, we do not know how much of each will be used, but we can expect some combination of all three. We expect to receive a deluge of information that will inform us over the course of the next few weeks.

While we are fortunate that we have taken prudent and appropriate fiscal measures that have afforded us to have built a reserve and fund balance, we are preparing various budgetary scenarios so that we can be equipped to respond in a thoughtful and timely manner. While I understand the sharing of this information may be unsettling, I want to reassure you that we will get through this difficult period together and stronger than ever.

State and County's Executive Order: As a reminder the current local and state orders include the following guidelines:

The order to shelter-in-place and work remotely has been extended to May 31, 2020. This time frame is still in line with prior District decisions to move instruction to a fully on-line delivery mode thru the summer semester. However, this timeline remains fluid, and we continue to review information and plan for everyone returning to the workplace.

The County has eased some restrictions, with social distancing measures still in place, that enable specific businesses and activities to gradually resume. This does not apply fully to our district operations yet, and thus we will continue to operate under the current, remote instruction, framework until further notice.

Please note that there are two shelter-in-place orders, one from the County and one from the State. The State's shelter-in-place does not have an end date. The County's shelter-in-place order is the strictest in terms of health and safety regulations, and thus the order we must follow. But even though the County's shelter-in-place has an end date, until the State's shelter-in place order is lifted, we would still be under the State's order.

Payroll will continue normal operations. Employees will be paid on time, **including hourly employees who were authorized to work and submitted a timesheet within the payroll deadline.** Starting in May, all paychecks will be distributed either through direct (ACH) payments to the employee's bank account or through USPS mail.

County health update: Alameda County has reported 1,917 confirmed cases of COVID-19 (last updated May 8, 2020).

Reminder-Health protocols:

If you are feeling sick, do not come to the office, contact your doctor, and notify your supervisor. If you are an essential employee, while at or away from office, please continue to practice social distancing, wash your hands frequently, and follow other standard health practices.

A reminder that all essential employees must speak (no texts, emails, or voicemails) to their immediate supervisor (or someone else if directed) to answer three simple questions (e.g. cough, fever, shortness of breath, etc.) before entering the workspace.

As always, please continue to visit the [district urgent alerts webpage](#) for up to date information, and contact your Presidents' Office or administrator for additional questions and/or guidance.

Lastly, perhaps we will make this a weekly addition-- some "Zoom" humor...enjoy!

Regards,

Ron Gerhard
Chancellor

Dr. Susan Sperling
President, Chabot College

Dr. Dyrell Foster
President, Las Positas College

Zoom Meeting

Audio only

With video

