



PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Coronavirus (COVID-19) News

March 12, 2020

Dear Palomar Student,

The world around us is changing quite rapidly. Here at Palomar College, we are also implementing changes to minimize and mitigate opportunities for exposure to the coronavirus (COVID-19). As we have stated in other communications, the risk to our campus remains low. The importance of personal hygiene has never been more significant, and please stay home if you are ill.

Most Face-To-Face Lecture Classes Will Be Taught Using an Alternate Method of Delivery

Beginning March 30, 2020, most of our face-to-face lecture classes will be taught using an alternative method of instruction, for example online, by conference call, or by email. Your instructor(s) will give you guidance regarding your particular course(s) during the week of March 16 and/or by Palomar email.

On Wednesday, March 18 and Thursday, March 19, there will be no face-to-face classes so that instructors can prepare for this change. This is for all face-to-face classes.

We are working to determine the best approach to addressing lab, clinical, and internship requirements as these may need to continue with limited face-to-face interactions.

If you are a current Disability Resource Center (DRC) student or a student who anticipates requiring specific accommodations to attend class in another format (e.g., online, conference call, phone, or email), please discuss any concerns regarding your class changes with your instructor.

Student Support Resources

We are also working on how best to provide you with student support resources such as tutoring, computer access, and internet access on campus or remotely.

It is very important that you read your Palomar College student email and Canvas notifications each day.

Low-Cost Internet Plan and Emergency Grants

We are aware that you may not have the appropriate access to participate in class from home. We have identified a low cost \$10/month, free installation internet platform AT&T. The plan is available for people with one member in the household using the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Details are available [here](#). The Palomar College Foundation offers emergency grants from \$100-\$250 to students to assist with technology, internet access, work-gap challenges, or essential needs. The application is available on the Foundation [website](#).

Travel

With spring break quickly approaching, the College asks that you review all your personal travel plans and make an informed decision about travel. Both the [CDC](#) and the [U.S. State Department](#) websites



provide important travel advisory information to consider. There is also a map available of areas within the United States that have been impacted by the outbreak. You can find the map [here](#).

If you choose to travel to an impacted region (CDC Warning Level 3 and Warning Level 2 countries, and U.S. Department of State Level 4 and Level 3 countries), be aware that the CDC calls for the traveler to stay home for 14 days from the time you left an area with widespread, ongoing community spread and practice social distancing.

- More specifically, take these steps to monitor your health and practice social distancing:
 - Take your temperature with a thermometer two times a day and monitor for fever. Also, watch for a cough or trouble breathing.
 - Stay home and avoid contact with others. Do not go to work or school for this 14-day period. Discuss your situation with your instructor and employer before returning to school and work.
 - Do not take public transportation, taxis, or ride-shares during the time you are practicing social distancing.
 - Avoid crowded places (such as shopping centers and movie theaters) and limit your activities in public.
 - Keep your distance from others (about 6 feet or 2 meters).
- Be sure to notify your instructor prior to missing any class time and prior to returning to class.

Large Public Gatherings

Effective March 16, 2020, events scheduled at the Main Campus in San Marcos and at our Education Centers in Escondido, Rancho Bernardo and Fallbrook, with more than 100 people in attendance are canceled until further notice. For events with less than 100 people, event organizers are required to implement social distancing of 6 feet per person (source: [Public Gatherings Policy - Governor Newsom](#)).

A decision regarding commencement on May 22 is pending. Athletic events will continue as scheduled; however, no spectators will be allowed into the facility/field.