



PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Coronavirus (COVID-19) News

December 6, 2020

Dear Palomar Community,

As you are likely aware, Governor Newsom recently issued a Regional Stay Home Order (Order) triggered by a threshold of ICU bed availability in the region. San Diego County is included in the Southern California region along with 10 other counties. On Friday evening, the Southern California region fell below the 15% threshold, which activates the start of the Order on Sunday, December 6 at 11:59 p.m. The Order will remain in effect for at least the next three weeks.

What does this mean for Palomar College? The health and welfare of our students, faculty, and staff remain top priorities of administrators and the Board of Trustees of the Palomar Community College District. While our expectations were that the COVID-19 virus would be more contained by this time, it is apparent that the situation has dramatically worsened since the Governor's initial stay at home order in March 2020. Throughout this state of emergency, we have reiterated the College's right to amend class schedules and essential work being done at the main campus and education centers. This continues to be the case today.

Through the dedicated work of our faculty and staff, it is obvious that we remain committed to the success of our students. In doing so, the current schedule of classes will remain as is for the remainder of the fall semester, unless further constraints are required per additional emergency orders.

We will close for our scheduled winter break on December 22. The winter intersession begins on January 4, and all classes will be delivered online with the continued exception of our Public Health & Safety courses. Due to the current state of the pandemic in San Diego County, the Instruction Office is diligently working with deans and faculty to amend the previously announced Spring 2021 schedule of face-to-face courses. This information will be released in the coming days. As a College, we are working with our classified union to extend our Fall 2020 MOU to continue to operate within the same modified staffing model as we have done since March 2020.

The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) remains in active status and will continue its important work to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among our students, faculty, and staff, and issue any new directives as needed under the Regional Stay Home Order. Please continue to monitor the [COVID-19 website](#) and your Palomar email for updates. Daily communication will continue from the Office of the President, Public Information Office, and our social media channels.

Please also recognize that the important work of our Foundation continues. The most recent fundraising efforts have replenished the Foundation's emergency grant fund. The application for students needing assistance is available on the Foundation [website](#).



Lastly, we must reiterate once again - your health and safety are incredibly important. Please follow all of the current restrictions as contained in the [Regional Stay Home Order](#), wear a facial covering, maintain social distancing, avoid gatherings outside of your immediate closed circle, and practice good personal hygiene.

Thank you for your continued focus on the success of our students, and your health and safety.

Sincerely,

Jack S. Kahn, Ph.D.
Interim Superintendent/President
Palomar College