

From: Ventura County Community College District
Sent: Monday, March 2, 2020 5:01 PM
Subject: A Message from Chancellor Gillespie

Good afternoon Students, Faculty, and Staff:

We understand your concerns related to the Coronavirus and would like you to know that we are meeting with Moorpark, Oxnard, and Ventura colleges' leadership teams to stay informed and discuss action plans in the event the Coronavirus is detected in Ventura County. Your health and safety is a primary concern of not only mine, but also the Board of Trustees and District and College leadership.

As of today, March 2, 2020, there are no school closures in California; Moorpark, Oxnard, and Ventura colleges are open. Officials expect the number of COVID-19 cases to rise in California with cases already increasing in other parts the United States.

We are maintaining close, regular contact with state and Ventura County public health officials to stay informed. I am meeting with local school, college, and county leaders this week to discuss county coordination of communications and organized response efforts. Vice Chancellor El Fattal will be meeting with our Districtwide Emergency Preparedness Committee to plan any necessary action steps.

The most important thing you can do is to be actively informed. There is no vaccine currently available to prevent the Coronavirus but you can take preventative steps, such as:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick to avoid exposing others.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Follow CDC's recommendations for using a facemask. CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19. Facemasks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others. The use of facemasks is also crucial for [health workers](#) and [people who are taking care of someone in close settings](#) (at home or in a health care facility).

Handwashing can help prevent illness. It involves five simple and effective steps (**Wet, Lather, Scrub, Rinse, Dry**) you can take to reduce the spread of illness so you can stay healthy. Regular handwashing is one of the best ways to remove germs, avoid getting sick, and prevent the spread of germs to others. It's quick and simple and can keep us all from getting sick. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.

If you have questions or concerns, students can visit the College Health Center for more information. Whether you are a student, faculty, or staff, if you feel sick, you should contact your health provider immediately. We want you to be appropriately cared for.

Other helpful resources are as follows:

Español

- Ventura County Public Health: [Hoja de información del CDC sobre la Coronavirus](#)
- Centros para el Control y la Prevención de Enfermedades: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index-sp.html>
- California Department of Public Health: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/OPA/Pages/CDPHespanol.aspx>

English

- Centers for Disease Control: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.
- Ventura County Health Care Agency: <http://www.vchca.org/agency-divisions/public-health>
- California Department of Public Health: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/>

We will be updating the [VCCCD Alerts page](#). Stay informed with this changing situation. Know that we will be working to get you the most current information available in this rapidly changing situation. We ask that you remain flexible as we process this situation and collaborate together in making important decisions to keep our students, faculty, and staff safe.

Greg

GREG GILLESPIE, PH.D.
CHANCELLOR

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