

From: [Communications](#)
To: [Communications](#)
Subject: State of Emergency Declared in SOCCCD
Date: Sunday, March 15, 2020 9:36:53 PM

Sent on behalf of SOCCCD Chancellor, Kathleen F. Burke, Ed.D.

Dear Colleagues:

In response to the rapid developments of COVID-19, Chancellor Burke has declared a **State of Emergency** in the South Orange County Community College District. The Board of Trustees is expected to ratify the decision on Monday, March 23 during the regularly scheduled board meeting. Her declaration mirrors similar ones made at the national, state, and local levels, and makes SOCCCD eligible for future assistance, lifts spending restrictions, and expands the district and colleges' ability to move quickly in response to this evolving situation.

Given the changes nationwide, there will be some additional changes occurring on all campuses. The information below supersedes any other announcements the colleges have previously made.

Campus Access Restrictions, March 16 through April 6

On Friday, March 13, the Orange County Department of Education supported the temporary closure of all school districts operating in the county. As a constituent district of the county, and out of an abundance of caution for the health and safety of our students, faculty, and staff, Chancellor Burke has directed the closures of Saddleback College, Irvine Valley College and ATEP to the public for a 21-day period. **Beginning 6:00 a.m. on March 16 through April 6, the colleges will be open only to full-time employees and students – The general public will be barred from the campuses.** This timeline could change; the district and colleges will continue to monitor this fluid situation and make changes accordingly.

Faculty on Campus

During the week of March 16 through March 22: Faculty and academic administrators will continue (previously announced work) to convert as many

courses as possible to remote instruction by Monday, March 23 and to address necessary issues with any courses that will not be moving to alternate methods. Further information will be available from both Dr. Elliot Stern of Saddleback and Dr. Cindy Vyskocil of Irvine Valley.

Adults 65 or Older and Adults with Chronic Health Conditions

Governor Gavin Newsom made an announcement that adults aged 65 or older and those with chronic health conditions should self-isolate and stay home. Information about how to take the appropriate time off will be conveyed through a message from District Human Resources to all employees.

Employees Reporting to Work on March 16

Classified staff and administrators, who are not age 65 or older or have compromised immune systems or chronic conditions (including heart disease, diabetes, lung disease) that place them at greater risk, who are currently ill, or who have childcare issues, must report for work. Employees will be working within divisions and departments to adapt our operations to this period of reduced on-campus access to our operations and observance of social distancing. Work with your area manager for information about your department's plans to adapt services or to obtain permission to work from home if you are in one of the self-isolation categories described above.

It is important that we maintain lines of communication throughout this period. Regular emails, updates to the college and district website and social media accounts will also be good sources for you to monitor.

We are following updates on the County of Orange Health Care Agency's website at www.ochealth.com.

Any questions or concerns should be sent to communications@socccd.edu.

This is a challenging time in our district, but we will make it through. Thank you for your cooperation, concern, and professionalism as we continue to address this public health emergency.

Sincerely,

Kathleen F. Burke, Ed.D.
Chancellor