

Renegade Roundup



COVID Advisory – 2/21

February 21, 2021

Dear Colleagues:

Thank you for keeping up with our weekly COVID-19 advisories. If you have any photos of BC faculty and staff receiving their vaccines or any relevant information about the global response to coronavirus, please email earl.parsons@bakersfieldcollege.edu or president@bakersfieldcollege.edu.

Kern County Expanding Eligibility for Vaccine



Brynn Carrigan is the new Director of Kern County Public Health.

Starting on Monday, February 22, everyone in Kern County who works in agriculture, food, education, child care and emergency services are now eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine. Kern County Public Health officials made the announcement at a virtual press conference on Friday, February 19, [according to Sam Morgen of the Bakersfield Californian](#).

Additionally, individuals looking to make an appointment at the mass vaccination clinic inside the Kern County Fairgrounds will now need to register via [the state's My Turn website](#) or by contacting the state call center at (833) 422-4255. However, due to a glitch in the My Turn system, individuals in the expanded eligibility list are still not able to sign up, but county public health officials are confident the issue will be ironed out very soon.

BCSD Planning to Bring Elementary Students Back on March 22



Bakersfield City School District plans to become the largest district in the county to reopen its campuses, [according to Emma Gallegos of the Bakersfield Californian](#). A memo by BCSD Superintendent Doc Ervin that was sent to staff on Tuesday, February 16 outlines the proposal.

In-person instruction for special ed students will return on March 15 before Pre-K through second grade classes return on March 22. Students in third through sixth grade classes will return on March 24, and there are currently no plans for middle school students to come back into their physical classrooms. The plan is contingent on Kern County being below the threshold for reopening suggested by Governor Newsom's Safe Schools for All program, which is 25 new cases per 100,000 (Currently, Kern County has a new case rate of 24.6 per 100,000).

To view BCSD's full proposal for returning to campus, [visit the BCSD website](#).

California Will Begin Reserving 10 Percent of Its Vaccine Supply for Educators



[Gavin Newsom has announced](#) that the state will be setting aside 10 percent of its vaccine supply specifically for teachers, day care workers, and other school employees starting March 1, with 75,000 doses being reserved from the state's vaccine allotment in the first week. There are 35 counties that already prioritize vaccinating teachers, and these reservations are intended to operationalize that priority across the entire state.

CDC and Biden Issue Guidelines for Reopening Schools



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have released a new guide for K-12 schools to safely reopen for in-person instruction. In the [Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools](#), the CDC emphatically states that “it is critical for schools to open as safely and as soon as possible.”

President Biden released a statement in conjunction with the CDC guidelines outlining his goal to “reopen America’s schools as quickly and as safely as possible”. Last week, he also spoke about school reopening during [a town hall in Milwaukee hosted by Anderson Cooper and CNN](#). Matthew Choi of Politico covered Biden’s statements around education, where he stated that he hopes K-8 classrooms return to a full week of in-person learning by the end of his first 100 days in office.

Blueprint For a Safer Economy Dashboard

[The State of California's Blueprint For a Safer Economy dashboard](#) shows where each county in California ranks in the four-tiered color system for reopening. A table with the comparison of test positivity rates from several counties on the monitoring list is below.

	February 14, 2021		February 21, 2021*	
	New cases per 100k	Test positivity rate	New cases per 100k	Test positivity rate
California	33.1	8.5%	24.2	6.5%
Kern County	31.2	12.5%	24.6**	10.2%**
Kings County	45.4	11.0%	38.5	8.8%
Fresno County	28.8	9.7%	22.4	7.9%
San Bernardino	33.2	10.6%	25.4	8.2%
LA County	42.5	9.5%	29.0	7.2%

*Dashboard data updated on Feb. 16

**Kern County is in the purple or “widespread” tier

Johns Hopkins Dashboard

As of 2 p.m. on February 21, the [Johns Hopkins University Dashboard](#) shows more than 111 million confirmed cases of COVID-19 worldwide since the start of the pandemic. Here is the table that captures the difference in the numbers since February 7.

	Feb. 14, 2021	Feb. 21, 2021	Difference	Percentage
World	108,753,721	111,268,162	2,514,441	2.3%
U.S.	27,638,448	28,121,178	482,730	1.7%
California	3,399,878	3,435,186	35,308	1.0%
Kern	100,290	101,738	1,448	1.4%

Stay safe, stay healthy, wear a mask, keep the 6ft distance separation, and wash your hands to slow down the spread and reduce the strain on our healthcare systems and providers.

That’s all for now.
Until next time.

With much Renegade Pride and Collegiality,
sonya

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