Renegade Roundup



Starting week 7 of Spring 2021

March 1, 2021

Dear Colleagues:

This week we have two seminars, the launch of Women's History Month programming and the Sterling Silver celebration on Saturday, March 6th. I invite you to tune in for all four events.

Our next All-Campus Virtual Seminar on March 2 will spotlight Student Affairs and will include an update on BC's vaccination site.



On March 4, Craig Hayward will be going over the results of our COVID-19 related surveys to students and faculty before Jennifer Johnson and Kim Nickell go into detail about vaccinations and higher education.



Renegades Get Vaccinated



With the vaccine being opened up to the education tier, it was great seeing so many colleagues receiving their vaccines this week. People sent in a ton of photos for the blog this week, and we have a growing photo gallery of those who have taken the first step to making education in Kern County safer for everyone.

If you have a photo of yourself receiving the vaccine, please email it to president@bakersfieldcollege.edu or earl.parsons@bakersfieldcollege.edu.

California Farmworkers Eligible for Vaccine



In addition to the education tier being opened up to receive the vaccine this week, agricultural workers have an opportunity to get their first chance to protect themselves against COVID-19. A report by KBAK notes that farmworker clinics have already opened up in Fresno and Riverside counties, and the California Farmworker Foundation hopes to have mobile vaccine clinics set up at Kern County work sites within the next few weeks.

FDA Approves Johnson and Johnson Vaccine



On Saturday, February 27, the Food and Drug Administration authorized distribution of a third COVID-19 vaccine from Johnson and Johnson. The Johnson and Johnson vaccine is significantly different than the Phizer and Moderna vaccines in that it only requires one

dose and is easier to produce and store, but it is slightly less efficacious than the Phizer and Moderna vaccines.

A piece by Maggie Fox of CNN breaks down the differences between the Johnson and Johnson, Phizer and Moderna vaccines, noting that public health officials have a lot of work to do to dispel misconceptions that the Johnson and Johnson vaccine is a "second-class" alternative to the other treatments.

House Passes Coronavirus Relief Package with \$39 Billion for Higher Education



On Friday, February 26, the House of Representatives passed a \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief bill that includes \$1,400 stimulus payments to eligible Americans. The bill, which will need to be approved by the Senate before reaching President Biden's desk, places a heavy emphasis on support for reopening schools, with \$128 billion in grants for K-12 and \$39 billion for higher ed institutions, according to Chloee Weiner's article for NPR. Additional funding in the bill includes \$25 billion for emergency rental assistance, an increase to the child tax credit alongside tax credits for low-income workers without children, and \$25 billion in small business grants for restaurants and entertainment venues.

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 21, 2021		Feb. 28, 2021*	
	New cases per 100k	Test positivity rate	New cases per 100k	Test positivity rate
California	24.2	6.5%	15.2	4.8%
Kern County	24.6	10.2%	16.8**	8.0%**
Kings County	38.5	8.8%	21.8	6.9%
Fresno County	22.4	7.9%	16.2	6.6%
San Bernardino	25.4	8.2%	15.2	6.1%
LA County	29.0	7.2%	16.5	12.3%

^{*}Dashboard data updated on Feb. 23

Johns Hopkins Dashboard

As of 11:30 a.m. on February 28, the <u>Johns Hopkins University Dashboard</u> shows more than 113 million confirmed cases of COVID-19 worldwide since the start of the pandemic. Additionally, the United States surpassed 500,000 COVID-19 deaths last week. Here is the table that captures the difference in the numbers since February 21.

	Feb. 21, 2021	Feb. 28, 2021	Difference	Percentage
World	111,268,162	113,959,461	2,691,299	2.4%
U.S.	28,121,178	28,574,863	453,685	1.6%
California	3,435,186	3,470,988	35,802	1.0%
Kern	101,738	103,295	1,557	1.5%

Stay safe, stay healthy, wear a mask, keep the 6 ft 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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^{**}Kern County is in the purple or "widespread" tier