

Renegade Roundup



COVID-19 Advisory – March 10th Update

March 10, 2020

Dear Colleagues:

Since my update yesterday, we continue to track changes on the case-monitoring dashboard by [Johns Hopkins University](#). Today, the numbers jumped, reflecting more than 118,000 cases of confirmed COVID-19 worldwide. Of those cases, 972 are in the United States, including 144 in California. **At this time, there are no confirmed cases in Kern County, and there is no immediate threat to our general public or campus community.**

The list of “must do” items for Bakersfield College faculty, staff, and students remains the same as yesterday:

- Stay home if you are sick. Practice respiratory hygiene by covering your mouth and nose with a bent elbow or tissue when coughing or sneezing. Dispose of used tissues immediately.
- Frequently and correctly wash your hands with water and soap. Do not touch your face, eyes, mouth or nose. Use a 60% or higher alcohol based sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available
- Travel: Cancel non-essential travel starting right away (March 9th)
- Gatherings: Move meetings to a virtual format starting immediately (March 10th). Cancel non-essential large gatherings.

On March 9, [the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention held a media teleconference](#) on COVID-19 and announced that the highest risk for the disease is in people older than 60 with long-term health conditions, especially respiratory conditions, according to [Dr. Nancy Messonnier](#), Director of the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases. And in a [recent communication](#), CDPH shared the severity and range of reported symptoms by saying, “The complete clinical picture with regard to COVID-19 is not fully understood. Reported illnesses have ranged from mild to severe, including illness resulting in death. Older people and people with certain underlying health conditions like heart disease, lung disease and diabetes, for example, seem to be at greater risk of serious illness.”

At Bakersfield College, we are following the guidance set forth by public health professionals and organizations as we shift from “containment” to “mitigation.”

Website Updates

Our web team has been facilitating updates non-stop to keep the [COVID-update page](#) as accurate and up-to-date as possible. Updates since yesterday include the Zoom recordings from the daily updates, along with a list of newly canceled or postponed events.

Providing Continuity in Instruction:

Faculty across our campus are creatively developing solutions to uphold *continuity of learning* in the event of a physical closure. Please take a moment to view these videos:

- [Culinary Arts, Suzanne Tangeman](#)
- [Education Faculty, Teresa McAllister](#)
- [Library Chair, Kirk Russell](#)
- [English Faculty, Shane Jett](#)
- [English Faculty, Jennifer Jett](#)
- [Academic Technology, Matt Jones](#)
- [Communication, Neeley Hatridge](#)
- [Communication, Angela Bono](#)
- [History, Oliver Rosales](#)

The Academic Technology department has created guides and resources to ensure faculty and students are successful. The [list of resources](#) continues to be updated so check back frequently.

Thank you for staying tuned in to these special and important advisory notices.

That's all for now.
Until next time.

With much Renegade Pride and Collegiality,

sonya

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March 9, 2020

Dear Colleagues:

We are continuing to monitor the emerging situation in regards to the spread of Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). Our Incident Command Team has been meeting to make sure we are able to quickly respond to any changes. **At this time, there are no confirmed cases in Kern County, and there is no immediate threat to the general public or campus community.**

As the country moves from a containment to a mitigation strategy, using social distancing as a method to slow down the spread, I am expanding on the list of “must do” items for Bakersfield College.

- Staying at home if you are sick
- Frequently and correctly washing your hands with water and soap. Don't touch your face – eyes, mouth, and nose
- Travel: Cancel non-essential travel starting right away (March 9th)
- Gatherings: Move meetings to a virtual format starting immediately (March 10th).
Cancel non-essential large gatherings.

Daily Update:

Cindy Collier, Nicky Damania, and Shelly Castaneda are providing daily updates on COVID-19 to the campus community at these times and locations and on zoom online:

- Tues. March 10, 2020 at Noon - at DST Delano
- Wed. March 11, 2020 at Noon at BCSW Lounge

If you're not at these locations, join the using Zoom online:

- Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android:
<https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/851817136>
- Or iPhone one-tap (US Toll): +16699006833,851817136# or
+16468769923,851817136#
- Or Telephone Dial:+1 669 900 6833 (US Toll) with meeting ID: 851 817 136

Events Update:

While there are currently no plans or recommendations to cancel classes, we are taking a proactive approach and making plans, should events dictate modification of campus operations. Out of an abundance of caution, Bakersfield College is analyzing upcoming events on a case-by-case basis and making recommendations to continue monitoring, or to postpone the event for a future date.

As of this afternoon, we have postponed two major events:

(1) March 19, 2020 HEAL Summit and

(2) April 8, 2020 Active Shooter Response Emergency Drill Exercise.

We have created a resource on our website to share what events have been affected and what events continue to be on our watch list. You can access it at

<https://www.bakersfieldcollege.edu/covid19/event-status>. The website calendar will also be reflected to show these changes.

Instructional Update:

Vice President Billie Jo Rice met with the deans early this morning and with the faculty chairs later in the day to discuss how we can ensure *continuity of education* to our students faced with possible campus closures. Options include transitioning courses to an online environment or utilizing Zoom to provide video instruction in real time.

Across campus, we have many different types of instructional activities that could be impacted by a potential physical campus closure. Deans and chairs are exploring options for creative alternative modes of instruction. Steve Waller has been working on solutions for science labs, Manny Mourtzanos and Bryan Hirayama are closely monitoring the status of our Inmate Scholars students, and Abel Guzman and Steve Watkin are in close communication with all our dual enrollment and early college high schools.

Let's see what faculty member Chef Suzanne Tangeman is planning on doing for her culinary classes:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=206Ch3OVBbM>

I ask that faculty engage with their students so they're prepared for how they may access courses and information in the event of a campus shutdown. It would be pertinent for faculty to have students start to think about their options for accessing computers and internet off-campus - for example, with the support of friends or family.

Faculty - as you think through issues that may temporarily impact operations of the physical campus, please share your ideas with colleagues, chairs and deans so we can gather best practices.

In closing, our website (<https://www.bakersfieldcollege.edu/covid19>) is a hub of information, including past communications, resources, and a form for asking questions. A FAQ section is under development and should be available shortly. These resources will be the best way you can stay informed and tuned in with BC's administrative directions.

At Bakersfield College, we realize the importance of our students' ability to complete their educational journey. That's why we are working proactively and diligently to minimize any interruptions and ensure solutions are in place to provide continuity of education.

We are BC!

That's all for now.
Until next time.

With much Renegade Pride and Collegiality,

sonya

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March 8, 2020

Dear Colleagues:

I have been keenly following news on the coronavirus. As of right now there are over 110,000 confirmed cases globally; over 500 cases here in the US, with 2 cases in the Fresno area, and no reported cases yet in Kern County. The language being used by experts is shifting from “containment” of an outbreak to “mitigation” acknowledging that public health measures of isolating the sick and quarantining their contacts are not enough. We must all paly our part to slow down the spread of the virus.

Given this emerging news, let’s start taking measure to slow the spread. I am adding one more item to our list of *must dos* -- cancel non-essential travel. So at this time our protocol includes:

- Staying at home if you are sick
- Frequently and correctly washing your hands with water and soap. Don’t touch your face – eyes, mouth, and nose
- Cancel non-essential travel

We continue to be in level 1 alert at this time, but with the potential for the situation to evolve quickly I have asked our Incident Command Center to go deeper in its planning.

Faculty – The Academic Technology department is available to assist with both the mechanics and tools that can be used for this emergency online instruction, as well as instructional strategies for subjects that are more difficult to provide online. I ask that you start going through the following checklist provided by Bill Moseley and his Academic Tech Team, with your students starting right away. Doing so will prepare both you and your students to maintain communication lines, and to continue with our teaching and learning activities.

1. Share the basic student instructions for using Canvas created by Academic Technology, if you don’t regularly use Canvas for your class.
2. Have your students install the Canvas app on their phones.
3. Have your students use personal devices or classroom computers to check their contact information in Banweb through InsideBC.
4. Think through how you will want to contact students in the case of a closure, and share this with them so they are prepared.
5. Think about how you will do office hours (zoom, email, phone) and share this with students.
6. Do a technology check at home to make sure you can use the software and services you will need. Advise students to do the same.

7. Some students won't have access to the technology they need. Help them think through creative solutions to this (relative, friend, etc).
8. Please keep in mind any students who have requested accommodations for your class. We will need to ensure that their needs are met.
9. Finally, adopt a "make do" attitude since we will not be able to find solutions for all courses. I know that Ximena da Silva in Chemistry will be working with Stephen Waller and other faculty to think through our science labs sessions.

In general at BC, since my initial calling of the Incident Command and emergency response team on February 27, we are staying tuned in, researching, enhancing our response plan, communicating and educating our community surrounding the situation. On Friday, we held an [All-Campus Meeting](#) to give the latest update. BC continues to work in partnership with Kern County Public Health and the CA Community Colleges Chancellor's Office. In fact, Chancellor Eloy Oakley shared in his recent update yesterday evening that CA Community Colleges are to be in the [first level of scenarios](#); one which is described as "Measures already underway to prevent the spread of COVID-19."

Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and White House Coronavirus Task Force Member, recently [explained that](#) "social distancing" is one of the best preventative practices we can adopt at this time. He explained that social distancing is our best means to "take care of the most vulnerable" and to be socially responsible members of our communities, we should consider reducing our physical interactions with those who may have elderly or vulnerable in their close network.

Also, [check out this message](#) (1:40-11:27) from the Executive Director General of the World Health Organization, [Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus](#). He speaks on the vital importance of sharing research so various groups around the world complement each other so we can collaboratively make better decisions that save lives. He ends his comments by saying, "We are all in this together and we all have a role to play. Facts, not fear. Reasons, not rumors. Solidarity, not stigma."

I am proud of the work being done at BC so far. Countless posters have been put up around the campus, our website is continually updated, and surfaces, door handles, and high traffic areas are being sanitized on a routine schedule. Vice President Dadabhoy has been working with Samantha Pulido and Student Life to ensure students are well informed and know to stay home if sick. And Vice President Rice has been working with Academic Senate President Steven Holmes, the Academic Technology department and BC's Deans to do creative in-depth planning to minimize instructional disruption in the event of a physical closure.

On a personal note, in addition to the daily updates from Cindy Collier, my special advisor on this matter, I've been watching the growth and evolution of the [global cases](#)

[dashboard](#) created by Johns Hopkins University, tracking the increasing numbers in California and throughout the country. I was scheduled to be in Boston this week but canceled my travel, less from an immediate concern of getting sick, and more in an effort to act as a good ambassador for public health in our community.

In closing, stay safe, and as we continue to follow guidance of public health professionals for any situations that may arise within our community, stay connected to the campus updates and communicate frequently with your students as well as your deans and directors.

We are BC!

That's all for now.
Until next time.

With much Renegade Pride and Collegiality,

sonya

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March 5, 2020

Dear Colleagues:

Gov. Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency in California yesterday to help prevent the spread of the COVID-19 novel coronavirus. California Community Colleges Chancellor, Eloy Oakley has also [joined in the conversation](#), urging colleges to follow the guidance set forth by the California Department of Public Health and to work closely with local public health agencies.

My personal advisory team on this matter including Cindy Collier and Nicky Damania have been briefing me daily on the status and development of the situation. [Kern County Public Health Services also continues to provide public and local updates.](#)

An All-Campus-Meeting on COVID-19 will be held tomorrow, March 6th, at 9:30AM in the Levan Center. Please plan to attend in person or tune in on the livestream. I will provide an overview of BC's actions thus far and outline BC's COVID-19 response plans.

The All-Campus-Meeting will also include:

- Comments from my advisory team and our emergency preparedness team

- A panel providing guidance to faculty.

If you choose not to join us in person, tune in via the livestream at www.bakersfieldcollege.edu/livestream.

Next week, on March 9th, 10th, and 11th daily updates will be provided at noon in the faculty and staff lunch room - Lev 40. These updates will be livestreamed so you can participate and interact with questions and comments.

Check out our COVID-19 briefing webpage which is a hub of information, resources, and an archive of our campus communication efforts www.bakersfieldcollege.edu/covid-19-update.

And don't forget to wash your hands frequently and correctly! It is one of the greatest preventative measures we can take to keep ourselves safe and healthy.

That's all for now.
Until next time.

With much Renegade Pride and Collegiality,

sonya

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March 3, 2020 Update

Dear Colleagues:

An update to my last message on the preparation the BC team is doing in the event of a community instance of the coronavirus.

#1. Our main message at this time continues to be the same. Please stay at home if you are sick and wash your hands frequently and correctly.

Here is a 4:41-minute video message from Steven Holmes, Samantha Pulido, Cindy Collier and me. Thank you Manny de Los Santos, Monica Scott, and Nicky Damania for helping us pull this together.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EM2y-oom4G8&feature=youtu.be>

#2. Our Incident Command Team has been activated and they are in the process of refining our emergency protocol. Key members are in daily communication with the county emergency personnel.

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Feb 27, 2020 Update

Dear Colleagues:

Let me start by informing you that BC's Emergency Preparedness team is on high alert tracking the developments of the Coronavirus COVID-19. Check out the dashboard from Johns Hopkins: <https://tinyurl.com/uwns6z5>

While we monitor the spread of this new virus, let's remember that Kern County is heavily impacted by the regular flu which has similar symptoms to COVID-19. I am asking that we adopt the following measures as a Renegade community to take care of ourselves as well as our students and fellow faculty and staff:

- (1) If you are sick, please stay at home. Remain at home until your fever has been gone for more than 24 hours without the use of any fever reducing medications and
- (2) please wash your hands frequently and correctly. Watch Diana Chen demonstrating the 5-step process. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4E7UkDlnvZA>

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