

## From the Chancellor's Desk



A holiday update

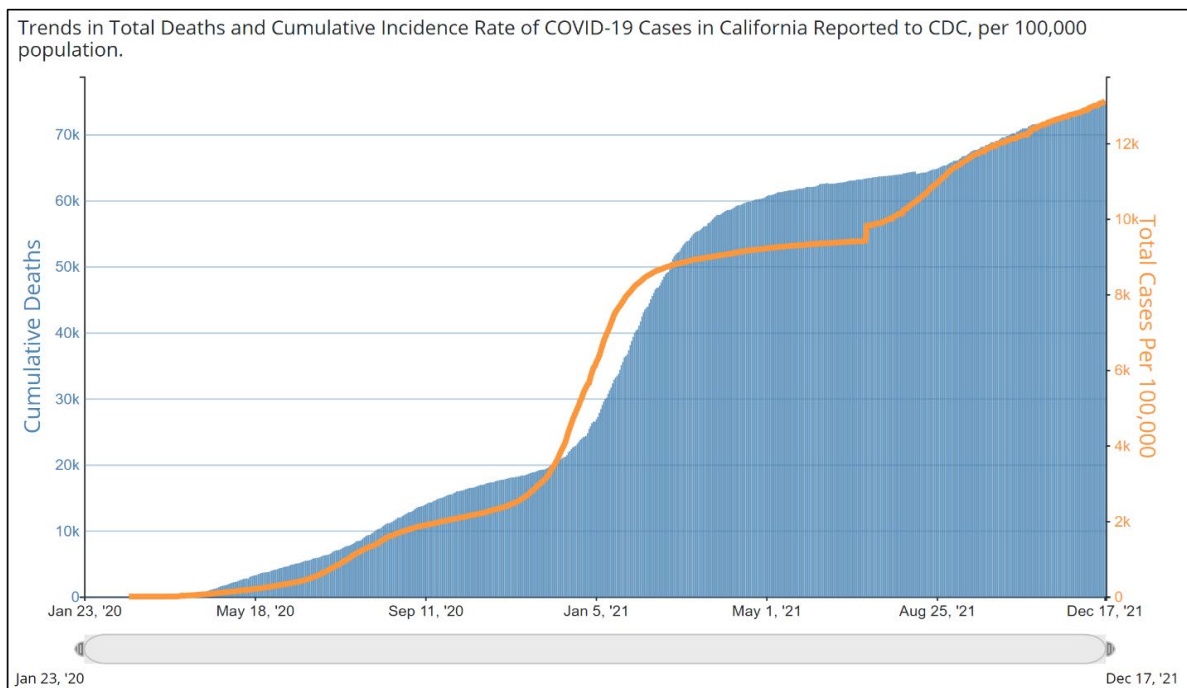
December 21, 2021

*Let's sail against our sea of troubles, and hold onto each other now*

NPR Scott Simon

Good morning KCCCD colleagues:

It's hard to imagine a world without COVID-19 because we've been fighting this pandemic for so long. In the December 17th newsletter from the CDC they reminded us that we've now surpassed 50 million cases and 800,000 deaths.



The good news is this week marks the first anniversary of the first COVID-19 vaccination, although even with vaccinations, the variants are still making things difficult. The bad news is the omicron variant appears to be much more contagious. With regard to omicron, top epidemiologists are signaling an emerging dire situation with phrases like “viral blizzard” from Dr. Michael Osterholm and “raging through the world” from Dr. Anthony Fauci.

So, let's be super conscious of the omicron as we start this holiday season of travel, spending time with family and loved ones. I will conclude this section by quoting from the Dec 17th CDC newsletter: "Holiday traditions are important for many people. Using proven prevention strategies, we can enjoy safer holidays, travel, and protect our own health as well as the health of our family and friends."

Now on a happier note ...

Last week the KCCD Trustees recognized Tom Burke for his years of dedicated service to KCCD. Prior to the board meeting there was a short reception with refreshments provided by BC's Chef Fidel and team. Several dignitaries provided comments remembering their work with Tom and the words "kind," "steady" and "community" a recurring theme in describing Tom.



If you were not able to catch it live, check out my blog post for the videos from the event <https://sonyachristianblog.com/>.

I was surprised and delighted to see a memo from the State Chancellor's office implementing AB 927 for community colleges offering baccalaureate degrees -- with the first deadline for submission on January 15th. After talking with Liz Rozell and Todd Coston who are staffing the baccalaureate work districtwide, I feel confident we can compete effectively in this first round as we gear up with proposals for round 2, 3, and 4. Here is a copy and paste of key dates from the AB 927 advisory memo.

BDP Interest Survey Submission Deadline	January 15, 2022
2022 BDP Application Cycle #1 Submission Deadline	January 15, 2022
2022 BDP Application Cycle #2 Available to CCCs	April 15, 2022
2022 BDP Application Cycle #1 Notification of Selected Colleges/Districts	May 31, 2022
2022 BDP Application Cycle #2 Submission Deadline	August 15, 2022
2023 BDP Application Cycle #1 Available to CCCs	September 15, 2022
2022 BDP Application Cycle #2 Notification of Selected Colleges/Districts	December 31, 2022

And finally, I wanted to share with you a piece from Scott Simon for NPR that inspired me this week.

It's about a pen and black ink drawing of Albrecht Dürer's "The Virgin and Child with a Flower on a Grassy Bench" believed to have been drawn around 1503. A few years ago, it sold at an estate sale for \$30; art experts believe it may sell at auction for \$50 million.



“The mother and child sit on what looks like a weather-scarred wooden ledge in the midst of tall grass, patchy and wild. Those sharp and unruly blades of grass reminded me in this week of rising infections and tumultuous weather that we hold tight to those we love. But we all sail against what Shakespeare called our "sea of troubles." .....

A child and mother who, like us all, don't know what's out there, or what's ahead. So we hold on to each other now.”

We don't know what the future holds but I am confident we can successfully face it together. Like Henry Ford said, “Coming together is a beginning, keeping together is progress, working together is success.”

Have a safe and fun-filled holiday. Showers of blessings on each and every one of you.

That's a wrap for now.

The future remains bright at KCCD!

With much warmth and collegiality  
sonya

[See all issues \*From the Chancellor's Desk\*](#)

#KCCDDaringMightyThings

