

## From the Chancellor's Desk



COVID Advisory, Board Meeting, Seminar on Fall Instruction August 13, 2021

KCCCD Colleagues:

As I am wrapping up my week this Friday evening, I thought I would drop you a quick note on some highlights from the week and about my next seminar scheduled for August 17th, Tuesday, from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

With faculty returning to campus next week to gear up for the first day of classes on August 23rd, I thought you might want to hear from your Vice Presidents of Instruction and your Academic Senate Presidents. Here is the registration link for the Aug 17<sup>th</sup> seminar [https://cccconfer.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_NKEW4EXcSVaYzXZoyMVQlg](https://cccconfer.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_NKEW4EXcSVaYzXZoyMVQlg)

This might also be a good weekend to catch up on the videos from the previous seminars that are posted on the website <https://www.kccd.edu/chancellors-office/chancellors-seminar-series>

Yesterday, August 12th, was our Board Meeting, my second as Chancellor. As COVID-19 cases continue to increase in our communities, [with the majority of cases, hospitalizations and deaths occurring among the unvaccinated](#), the Board of Trustees voted yesterday to authorize us to develop and implement a vaccine requirement to protect the health and safety of our community.

Dena Rhoades and Joe Grubbs are working with the COVID Response Teams from each campus to work through the operational details. You can find the Board resolution and preliminary FAQ here: <https://www.kccd.edu/chancellors-office/coronavirus-update>

This is a living document and will be updated and revised as we work with our employees and students. If you have any questions, plz email:

Districtwide [covid19@kccd.edu](mailto:covid19@kccd.edu)  
Porterville College [covid19@portervillecollege.edu](mailto:covid19@portervillecollege.edu)  
Bakersfield College [covid19@bakersfieldcollege.edu](mailto:covid19@bakersfieldcollege.edu)  
Cerro Coso College [covid19@cerrocoso.edu](mailto:covid19@cerrocoso.edu)

A little background: The California Community Colleges are governed by local Boards whereas the UCs and CSUs have a statewide Board. There is therefore no system-wide Covid-19 vaccine requirement for California Community Colleges, in contrast to [the University of California](#) and California State University.

Instead, locally elected district boards have authority to decide whether to require vaccines (though the Board of Governors has expressed support for districts to implement a vaccine mandate). So far, at least 30 of the 72 community college districts in the system have vaccine requirements.

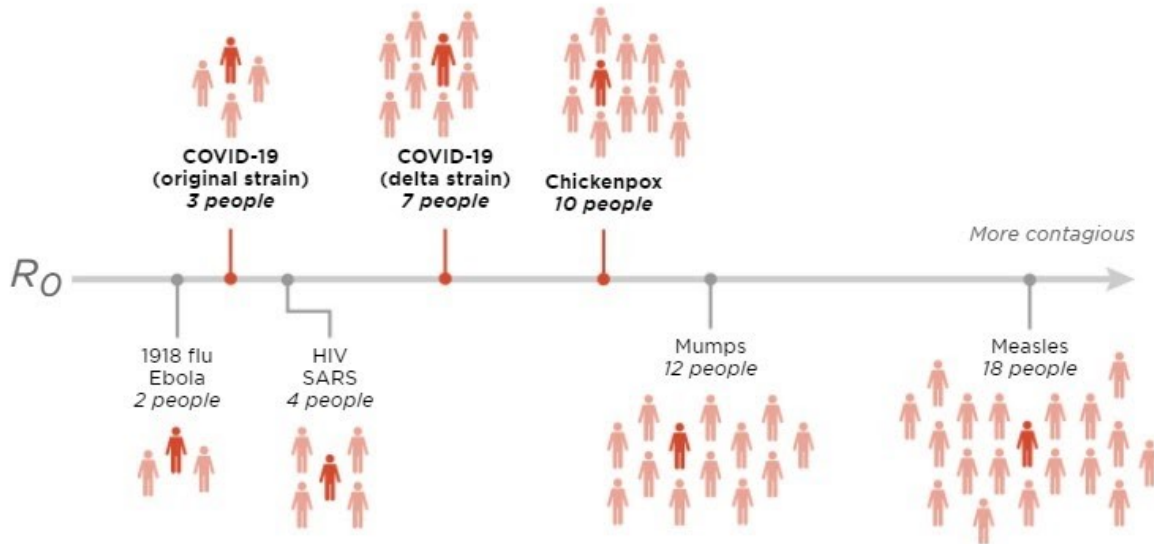
The presidents and I spent a few moments after the Board meeting exchanging stories about this being the fourth semester dealing with the pandemic, the dynamic nature of the virus and its variants, and the unpredictable impact on how we operate.



Also, we had fun developing this 1-min video promoting the use of the KCCD Campus Pass App (ReadyEd App). [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a\\_rtaRu3QMQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a_rtaRu3QMQ). Do help us get the word out and encourage our students to register with the App.

## COVID-19 Updates

### Delta Variant More than Twice as Transmissible as Original COVID Strain According to $R_0$ Metric



[During a report for NPR's Morning Edition](#), a Belgian biostatistician named Tom Wenseleers explained the  $R_0$  or "R-Nought" metric, which scientists use to measure the average number of people a sick person will infect when the entire population is vulnerable to the virus. In a hypothetical environment where no one has immunity, the delta strain of COVID-19 would infect approximately 7 people for every one person who contracts the disease, compared to 3 people for every 1 person infected with the original strain of COVID-19. In our real-world environment, with [50.84 percent of the US population fully vaccinated as of August 10](#), the actual transmissibility rate is lower.

### California Becomes First State in US to Mandate Vaccinations for K-12 Staff

On August 11, [the California Department of Public Health announced](#) that all K-12 school staff in the state will need to show proof of vaccination or be tested at least once per week. Schools must be in full compliance by October 15, and districts can use emergency relief funds and grants to aid in implementation.

### Kern County Hospitals Postponing Non-Emergency Procedures as Delta Cases On the Rise

As the Delta variant continues to rise in Kern County, with [daily case rates of COVID-19 at their highest level since February](#), several local hospitals have announced that they will postpone so-

called “elective” medical procedures to preserve space for COVID patients. [An article by John Cox of the Bakersfield Californian](#) quotes representatives from Adventist Health, Kern Medical, and Dignity Health who announced the preventative measures.

### **Tulare County Health Officials Urge Community Members to Get Vaccinated**

Hospital leaders from throughout Tulare County held a press conference on August 11 urging members of the community to be fully vaccinated. [In the article from the Visalia Times-Delta](#), reporter Lauren Jennings quotes Kaweah Health chief nursing officer Keri Noeske, who notes that COVID-19 inpatients at her hospital increased from 10 to 64 patients in just three weeks.

### **FDA Announces Emergency Authorization for Booster Shot**

On August 13, the Food and Drug Administration granted emergency authorization for a COVID-19 booster shot to be administered for certain populations with weakened immune systems, [according to the Wall Street Journal](#).

Let’s all remember to take care of each other by staying safe: get vaccinated, wear a mask, keep the 6ft distance, wash your hands.

I look forward to seeing you at the next seminar on Tuesday, August 17th at 4:00 p.m. Here is the registration link again

[https://cccconfer.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_NKEW4EXcSVaYzXZoyMVQlg](https://cccconfer.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_NKEW4EXcSVaYzXZoyMVQlg)

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

