

From the Chancellor's Desk



COVID Advisory, KCCD App Seminar, Student Forum

August 6, 2021

KCCD Colleagues:

There seems to be so much happening at KCCD that I thought I would drop you another note updating you on some key issues.

Let me start by inviting you to join me on August 9th and 10th at 4 p.m. for the next **two seminars** in the series.

The Chancellor Seminar Series:
Ready Education App

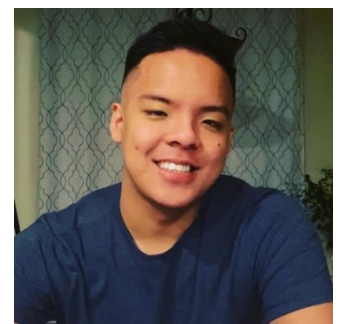
 Sonya Christian Chancellor	 Todd Coston Associate Vice Chancellor, Planning and Educational Technology	 Dena Rhoades Vice Chancellor, Human Resources	 Teri Higgins Senior Campus Success Consultant, ReadyEd
 Resa Hess Human Resources Manager	 Roger Perez Director of Communications and Community Relations	 Nicky Damania Dean of Students	 Joe Grubbs Executive Director, Risk Assessment & Management

August 9, 2021 4:00pm

Monday, August 9th: Vice Chancellor of Human Resources Dena Rhoades was able to secure Teri Higgins from the ReadyEd App, to review some of the specific features of the tool that we have adopted to manage vaccination and contact tracing information related to COVID. In addition, we will have the lead administrators from the three colleges and the District Office available to respond to questions.

To participate, [fill out the webinar registration form.](#)



Tuesday, August 10th at 4 p.m., student trustee Gian Gayatao along with student leaders from our three colleges will be hosting a student forum on the COVID, vaccinations etc.

I invite you to participate as well. Here is the registration link for Please register here: https://cccconfer.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_653pwX9RSHyfr_ODM39jQ

You can find the videos of the previous seminars here: <https://www.kccd.edu/chancellors-office/chancellors-seminar-series>

Student Survey

Bob Ngo, our Director of Institutional Research, sent out a student survey this morning to assess their vaccination status similar to the survey that was recently sent out to all KCCD staff and faculty. In order to get the highest response rate possible, I am asking you to use your communication channels to encourage students to take the survey.

For those of you who are teaching summer classes, sending emails, reminding students during class or adding the survey reminder to your course schedule are all things you can do to help improve the response rate. For those of you teaching Fall classes, you can log into MyBanWeb, click on the faculty tab, and send an email to everyone who is registered for your class. You can keep the messaging simple – just let students know that if they are registered for Fall 2021 classes at KCCD, to look for an email from the KCCD Institutional Research office with a link to the very short (5 questions) survey.

Thanks for your help and please email Bob Ngo, if you have any questions.

Employee Survey:

I was delighted to see that we had 1,072 responses - thank you to all who participated!

Here is an excerpt from the summary report:

Of the respondents, 77% are fully or partially vaccinated. Among those who are not vaccinated, 10% said they plan to get vaccinated in the next six months. 56% of all respondents support a vaccination requirement for staff and students, while 60% support a mask requirement for staff and students.

Please email Bob Ngo if you have any questions.

COVID-19 Updates

COVID-19 Cases Surge in Kern County as Public Health Returns to Updating Numbers Daily

On Thursday, August 6, [Kern County Public Health reported 357 new confirmed cases of COVID-19](#). This week, the department returned to providing regular updates Monday through Friday as cases surge throughout the county. On Monday, August 2, the numbers shot up from 145 new infections in the previous report to 594 confirmed cases, [according to KERO](#).

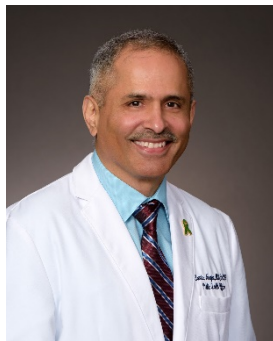
[The state dashboard for COVID-19](#) reports that there are currently 119 people in Kern County that are hospitalized with the disease.

LA Community Colleges Mandating Vaccines or Testing for Students, Faculty and Staff
[The Los Angeles Community College District has joined the list of educational institutions throughout the state to mandate vaccinations.](#) The logistics for carrying out the vaccination policy across the district's nine campuses are being worked out, but students and faculty will still have the option to get tested, and vaccination status will not prevent anyone from enrolling. Masking continues to be enforced at LACCD due to the rise of the Delta variant.

U.S. COVID-19 Cases Reach 6-month High

The U.S. saw more than 100,000 new COVID-19 infections on Thursday as the 7-day average of new reported cases reached nearly 95,000, [according to Reuters](#). Seven states that are among those with the lowest COVID-19 vaccination rates accounted for nearly half of the new cases and hospitalizations nationwide over the past week. Those states are Florida, Texas, Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Alabama, and Mississippi.

California Health Care Workers Must be Vaccinated by Sept. 30



The California Department of Public Health [issued an order](#) that will require health care workers and long term workers to be fully vaccinated by Sept. 30.

“Increasing numbers of healthcare workers are among the new positive cases, despite vaccinations being prioritized for this group when vaccines initially became available,” said Dr. Tomás J. Aragón, California’s public health officer. “Recent outbreaks in health care settings have frequently been traced to unvaccinated staff members.”

Walmart, Disney, Tyson Foods among Companies Mandating Vaccines for Employees

As the delta variant spreads, and with the backing of vaccine mandates from President Biden and Governor Newsom, more large corporations have taken the initiative to require COVID-19 vaccines throughout their organizations.

- Tyson Foods, one of the nation’s largest meat processing companies, announced that it would require COVID-19 vaccinations for all of its 138,000 employees, [according to the Wall Street Journal](#). Employees must be in compliance with by November 1.
- Previously, [The Walt Disney Company and Walmart](#) had announced vaccine requirements. All salaried and non-union hourly employees with Disney, as well as all new hires, have 60 days to get vaccinated or provide proof of vaccination.

- At Walmart, America's largest private employer, all corporate and regional members must be vaccinated by October 4. Walmart is also offering \$150 for unvaccinated employees to get the shot.
- Tech companies and airlines continue to lead the way in mandating vaccinations, with Facebook, Google, Microsoft, United Airlines and Delta all mandating vaccines for employees.

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 Monday, August 9th at 4:00 p.m.

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*](#)

