

From: [Communications](#)
To: [Communications](#)
Subject: SOCCCD Closure Extension
Date: Monday, March 30, 2020 6:10:45 AM

Greetings:

A district-wide [message](#) was sent on March 17, announcing the closure to the public of Irvine Valley College, Saddleback College, ATEP, and District Services. Additionally, the message included a requirement for all faculty and staff to work from home, with the exception of [essential employees](#), as assigned by their supervisors/managers.

We are now one week into our closure and we continue to monitor information and updates on the pandemic, which are changing daily regarding the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in and around Orange County, along with the directives from national, state, and local officials.

Given the growing seriousness of the pandemic and Governor Newsom's [stay-at-home orders](#), the closure of the South Orange County Community College District will be extended beyond March 31, 2020. In fact, based upon Governor Newsom indicating that his order could last another eight to twelve weeks, **we anticipate the continuation of the closure with online offerings of all courses to students through the end of the Spring 2020 semester.** However, please note, that all employees are required to be available to be returned to work at any time unless one is off on an approved leave or vacation.

We understand that making predictions can create a false sense of security. Therefore, **we cannot provide a concrete date of reopening, but are prepared to remain nimble to best work within the timeline of the health experts, who are tracking the spread of COVID-19.**

Lastly, as COVID-19 testing progresses and tests become more accessible throughout the county, we will continue to learn about employees or students within our district/college community that have been exposed or have contracted COVID-19. Please respect the privacy of those in our community without inquiries about the identity of the infected, including their specific employee group, office, or division. **Not only are we committed to protecting the privacy, while simultaneously promoting the health, of all employees, we are all required to do so by law.**

Each of you have continued serving our students, employees, vendors, and community to the best of your abilities and have shown your commitment to ensuring that the District and college operations remain as seamless as possible. We can't thank you enough for your patience, dedication, and understanding during this crisis. In uncertain times, we can truly appreciate the professionalism and commitment of you all.

Sincerely,
Kathleen F. Burke, Ed.D.
Chancellor