

# Yuba Community College District reports on planning effort for COVID-19

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NORTHERN CALIFORNIA – The Yuba Community College District said it's continuing to progress in planning for COVID-19, the disease caused by the novel coronavirus. ▼

The district has incorporated the California Department of Public Health's guidelines for colleges and universities that were released mid-March regarding COVID-19.

The health risk from COVID-19 to the general public still remains low at this time; however, district officials said this is a quickly evolving situation.

The YCCD communities and campuses are impacted differently so planning must intentionally address these regional differences, college officials said.

State and county public health officials are continuously assessing the situation and the colleges and district services are in regular contact with respective county health officers so leadership can make decisions based on local community circumstances.

“At this time we have every reason to believe that our colleges and campuses are under no risk of COVID-19; there are no reported cases among any students, faculty or staff,” said Chancellor Dr. Douglas Houston. “However, we are taking every reasonable precaution to ensure students, faculty and staff safety while continuing to provide instruction and services.”

In accordance with the CDPH guidance, YCCD is responding to the potential for an escalation of an outbreak in a four-phase protocol.

As a district, YCCD is undertaking active infection control measures and planning in the event the infection does spread to the campuses which may require closure in which case district leadership will notify students and communities.

District leadership is encouraging faculty, staff and students to make individual decisions regarding work, class attendance, and travel based on individual health circumstances.

In compliance with the guidance released from the Governor's Office on March 12 issuing an updated CDPH policy on gatherings to protect public health and slow the spread of COVID-19, YCCD is undertaking actions to postpone or cancel events that meet the criteria stated in the updated state policy on gatherings.

The state's updated policy defines a “gathering” as “any event or convening that brings together people in a single room or single space at the same time, such as an auditorium, stadium, arena, large conference room,

meeting hall, cafeteria, or any other indoor or outdoor space.”

District and college leadership continues to meet on a daily basis to refine specific plans for the programs and services provided to our students and communities and to anticipate the potential continued escalation of COVID-19 spread.

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