

DATE: March 12, 2020

TO: CSU Presidents

FROM: Steve Relyea  
Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer



**ACTION: Events and Meetings -  
Campus Preparedness (Updated)**

SUBJECT: **COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) – Updated Guidance to Campuses for Events & Meetings**

Background/Purpose

The CSU Chancellor's Office provides the following updated guidance to assist campuses in making decisions about whether to continue, cancel, or reschedule a meeting or event to be hosted by the campus. The updated guidance has been prepared in response to [new guidelines issued by the California Department of Public Health](#) (CDPH) in response to [Executive Order N-25-20 issued by Governor Gavin Newsom](#). This CSU Chancellor's Office guidance supplements previous guidance provided on March 9, 2020, and should be considered in combination with earlier information provided.

This guidance continues to be provided with the purposes of mitigating COVID-19 incidence and prevalence through social distancing.

Guidance on Mass Gatherings of 250 People or More

Large gatherings involving 250 or more individuals should be cancelled or rescheduled. This includes, but is not limited to, conferences, performances, athletic events, and other social gatherings.

A "gathering" is defined by the CDPH 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.

At this time, the CSU Chancellor's Office interprets the guidance provided to apply primarily to co-curricular and/or non-instructional activities. However, campuses should strongly consider this CDPH guidance when reviewing plans for instructional continuity.

Guidance on Smaller Gatherings

Campuses should continue to rely on the CSU Chancellor's Office guidance issued previously to guide decisions about whether to continue hosting events and meetings that comprise of less than 250 individuals. For activities and events deemed essential by the campus, smaller gatherings must be held in venues that allow *social distancing of six feet per person*. If this degree of social distancing cannot be achieved – regardless of the venue in which the gathering is being hosted - then the gathering should be canceled or rescheduled.

CSU Campuses	Fresno	Monterey Bay	San Francisco
Bakersfield	Fullerton	Northridge	San José
Channel Islands	Humboldt	Pomona	San Luis Obispo
Chico	Long Beach	Sacramento	San Marcos
Dominguez Hills	Los Angeles	San Bernardino	Sonoma
East Bay	Maritime Academy	San Diego	Stanislaus

The CDPH is further recommending that gatherings of individuals who are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 should be limited to no more than 10 people. Individuals considered at higher risk include: individuals over age 60, individuals with compromised immune systems, and individuals with severe underlying health conditions — like heart disease, lung disease and diabetes, etc.

Again, at this time, the CSU Chancellor's Office interprets the guidance provided to apply primarily to co-curricular and/or non-instructional activities. However, campuses should strongly consider this CDPH guidance when reviewing plans for instructional continuity.

### Systemwide Resources

Please continue to take advantage of these CSU systemwide resources in your campus planning and preparedness efforts:

- Instructional continuity: Alison Wrynn, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Programs, Innovation and Faculty Development, at (562) 951-4672 or [awrynn@calstate.edu](mailto:awrynn@calstate.edu).
- Student activities, services and support: Luoluo Hong, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, at 562-951-4744 or [lhong@calstate.edu](mailto:lhong@calstate.edu).
- International programs and travel: Leo Van Cleve, Assistant Vice Chancellor International and Off-Campus Programs, at (562) 951-4790 or e-mail at [lvancleve@calstate.edu](mailto:lvancleve@calstate.edu).
- Human resources and personnel matters: Stephanie Wright, Chief of Staff, Human Resources, at 562-951-4253 or [swright@calstate.edu](mailto:swright@calstate.edu).
- Risk management, health and safety concerns: Zachary Gifford, Director of Systemwide Risk Management, at (562) 951-4580 or [zgifford@calstate.edu](mailto:zgifford@calstate.edu).
- Information technology: Michael Berman, Assistant Vice Chancellor and Chief Information Officer, at (562) 951-4235 or [mberman@calstate.edu](mailto:mberman@calstate.edu).
- Communications and public affairs: Mark Woodland, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Communications, at (562) 951-4657 or [mwoodland@calstate.edu](mailto:mwoodland@calstate.edu).
- Campus counsel: Campuses should consult with their designated point of contact from the Office of General Counsel.

Attachment: COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) – Guidance to Campuses for Events & Meetings (March 9, 2020)

SR/lh

CSU Presidents

Updated Guidance for Events & Meetings

March 12, 2020

Page 3

cc: Timothy P. White, Chancellor  
Loren Blanchard, Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs  
Andy Jones, Executive Vice Chancellor and General Counsel  
Garrett Ashley, Vice Chancellor for University Relations and Advancement  
Evelyn Nazario, Vice Chancellor for Human Resources  
Larry Mandel, Vice Chancellor and Chief Audit Officer

[www.calstate.edu](http://www.calstate.edu)

**DATE:** March 9, 2020

**TO:** CSU Presidents

**FROM:** Steve Relyea   
Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer

**Action: Events and Meetings -  
Campus Preparedness**

**SUBJECT: COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) – Guidance to Campuses for Events & Meetings**

Background/Purpose

The CSU Chancellor's Office provides the following guidance to assist campuses in making decisions about whether to continue, cancel or reschedule a meeting or event to be hosted by the campus. Meetings include shared governance activities central to fulfilling the CSU's academic mission. Events include, but are not limited to, athletic competitions, concerts/performances, welcome days (admitted students yield events), affinity groups, and commencement. Note that we are continuing to track developments related to the incidence and prevalence of COVID-19 on an hourly and daily basis, so this guidance may be updated as facts emerge.

At the present time, the health risk for COVID-19 to the general public in California remains low, and the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the state is still relatively low. The State is in a mitigation phase relative to the novel coronavirus pandemic; this means efforts are being directed to (1) reduce the rate of transmission, (2) minimize the impact of coronavirus infections on health care and other systems, and (3) allow for time to develop a possible vaccine or viable treatment solutions to COVID-19. Our guidelines below reflect this current context.

Guidance for Near-Term Events and Meetings

Near-term events and meetings include those that are scheduled to occur within the next 1-2 weeks. Absent any confirmed case of infection by COVID-19 within the campus community, campuses should make every effort to sustain core mission activities, including events and meetings that support the institutional mission, as much as possible and for as long as possible. Each planned event or meeting should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine whether it should continue as scheduled, be rescheduled, or be cancelled.

Consistent with [California Department of Public Health](#) (DPH) recommendations on the use of social distancing (i.e., reducing close person-to-person contact) as a strategy for reducing risk of infection, campuses should consider alternatives to hosting activities that require people to congregate, particularly large or communal events. *We strongly encourage cancelling or rescheduling events and meetings that are less essential or are not time-sensitive in nature.*

In conducting a case-by-case analysis of any given event or meeting, campuses should holistically assess the following five factors, along with any others which may be unique to the campus or context:

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**CSU Campuses**  
Bakersfield  
Channel Islands  
Chico  
Dominguez Hills  
East Bay

Fresno  
Fullerton  
Humboldt  
Long Beach  
Los Angeles  
Maritime Academy

Monterey Bay  
Northridge  
Pomona  
Sacramento  
San Bernardino  
San Diego

San Francisco  
San José  
San Luis Obispo  
San Marcos  
Sonoma  
Stanislaus

- **Can the goals and outcomes of an event be accomplished effectively through alternative modalities of communication that do not require in-person engagement?** If so, campuses should consider utilizing these alternative modalities in place of an in-person meeting. These may include leveraging available technologies such as Zoom, or restructuring the meeting or event so that participants do not have to be in close proximity to each other. In all cases, use of alternative modalities should involve consultation with disability accommodations professionals on the campus to ensure that the event or meeting is accessible.
- **Will intended audience members be traveling via air to attend the event, in particular on flights that will be of longer duration?** The process of entering airports, undergoing security screening and flying for prolonged periods of time in close proximity to others increases risk of exposure to COVID-19. Further, individuals arriving from US cities/regions or other countries with a higher prevalence of COVID-19 infections (especially individuals who have recently traveled to or from countries designated as Level 3 by the CDC) may further increase the risk of transmission. The more that an event or meeting will require travel by participants from a dispersed and/or unknown array of locations, the more the campus should err on cancelling the event/meeting or conducting the event through alternative means.
- **Will intended audience members or meeting participants be members of target populations considered to be at increased risk or susceptibility to COVID-19 infection** (e.g., individuals over age 60, individuals with compromised immune systems, individuals with severe underlying health conditions — like heart disease, lung disease and diabetes, etc.). If so, campuses should err more on cancelling the event/meeting or conducting the event through alternative means.
- **What is the current guidance from your local health department?** The guidance issued by the California DPH is certainly one resource to consult, but the epidemiology of COVID-19 has varied greatly by region, ranging from counties that still have no reported COVID-19 infections to one county that has reported its first COVID-19 fatality. As such, campuses should consult with their local health department officer when deciding on how handle any particular event or meeting.
- **What is the size of the event?** While the size of any event may be a consideration, this should not be used as the sole determining factor, as the size of an event must always be assessed in the context of a broader range of factors. Small events that incur high risk are just as concerning as larger events where other risk factors are not at issue. Similarly, the number of people involved should be considered against the size and nature of the venue for the event or meeting. Nonetheless, events that bring larger numbers of people together – particularly in a confined space – do increase the likelihood of exposure.

For all events and meetings, regardless of the size, instituting rigorous environmental cleaning before and after the event/meeting, as well as minimizing the amount of person-to-person contact, as well encouraging the practice of preventive behaviors (e.g., providing hand sanitizer, tissue, etc.), is strongly recommended.

If campuses do elect to cancel or reschedule events or meetings, we recommend collaborating with University Communications colleagues on how to best convey these changes with impacted constituents and stakeholders, as well as prepare to respond to any media inquiries if they should occur.

### Guidance for Future Events and Meetings

Future events and meetings include those scheduled or anticipated to occur in the next 1-2 months or further out. Again, absent any confirmed case of infection by COVID-19 within the campus community, campuses should make every effort to sustain core mission activities. Because the facts about COVID-19, as well as its incidence and prevalence, are shifting on a daily basis, it is difficult to project with accuracy what will happen in the coming months.

Each planned event or meeting should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine whether it should continue as scheduled, be rescheduled, or be cancelled at this time – with an effort to keep events and meetings on the books for as long as possible to minimize disruption to students, staff, faculty and other participants. The five factors noted above for near-term events can be similarly applied in this evaluation. However, campuses should be developing a contingency plan for each event or meeting in the event cancelling or rescheduling is required. This may include proactively reaching out to vendors and other partners about the impacts of cancellation or rescheduling.

Where feasible, campuses should delay confirming any new major events or meetings that require the signing of contracts or making other potential financial commitments. Identifying and tracking timelines for “must decide” milestones is recommended, as well (e.g., cancellation policy is 60 days before the event).

### Template Evaluation Rubric

To assist campuses in conducting their review of upcoming events and meetings, the CSU Chancellor’s Office is providing the attached template for reference. Campuses are in no way obligated to use this template as their evaluation rubric and may utilize whatever strategies or tools they believe are most useful in adapting this guidance.

### Systemwide Resources

Please continue to take advantage of these CSU systemwide resources in your campus planning and preparedness efforts:

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CSU Presidents  
Guidance for Events & Meetings  
March 9, 2020  
Page 4

- Campus counsel: Campuses should consult with their designated point of contact from the Office of General Counsel.

SR/lh

Attachment: *Rubric for Evaluating Events and Meetings - Infectious Disease Pandemic Planning Tool*  
(Current as of March 9, 2020)

cc: Timothy P. White, Chancellor  
Loren Blanchard, Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs  
Andy Jones, Executive Vice Chancellor and General Counsel  
Garrett Ashley, Vice Chancellor for University Relations and Advancement  
Evelyn Nazario, Vice Chancellor for Human Resources  
Luoluo Hong, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management

At the present time, the health risk for COVID-19 to the general public in California remains low, and the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the state is still relatively low. The State is in a **mitigation phase** relative to the novel coronavirus pandemic; this means efforts are being directed to (1) reduce the rate of transmission, (2) minimize the impact of coronavirus infections on health care and other systems, and (3) allow for time to develop a possible vaccine or viable treatment solutions to COVID-19. **Social distancing** (i.e., reducing close person-to-person contact) is a key strategy for reducing risk of infection. The evaluation rubric below reflects this current context.

Name/Description of the Event or Meeting: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date/Time of Event or Meeting: \_\_\_\_\_ Location/Facility: \_\_\_\_\_

Anticipated Attendance: \_\_\_\_\_ Target Audience/Participants: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*The CSU Chancellor’s Office strongly encourages cancelling or rescheduling events and meetings that are less essential or less time-sensitive in nature. Unless your event or meeting is critical to sustaining core mission activities,<sup>i</sup> please proceed with plans to cancel or reschedule.\***

**Rating Rubric for Evaluating Core Mission Activities**

	<b>5 = High likelihood</b>	<b>4 = Strong likelihood</b>	<b>3 = Moderate likelihood</b>	<b>2 = Low likelihood</b>	<b>1 = Minimal Likelihood</b>	<b>Additional Notes</b>
<b>Goals or outcomes of the event/meeting can be accomplished via alternative modalities that do not involve close contact</b>						
<b>Participants will be traveling via air to attend (especially longer flights or from high-risk regions)</b>						
<b>Participants will be members of high-risk of infection populations</b>						
<b>Guidance from local health department indicates need for greater social distancing</b>						



	5 = High likelihood	4 = Strong likelihood	3 = Moderate likelihood	2 = Low likelihood	1 = Minimal Likelihood	Additional Notes
The event/meeting will involve larger <sup>ii</sup> numbers of participants (especially in close proximity to each other)						
Fiscal and opportunity costs of cancelling or rescheduling are manageable or can be mitigated.						
Unique campus contexts would support cancelling or rescheduling – describe below:						
<i>It is recommended campuses establish a scoring threshold before initiating any review or assessment of campus events and meetings, e.g., all events/meetings with a score above "X" will be cancelled or rescheduled. In general, higher scores suggest greater justification to cancel or reschedule.</i>					<b>TOTAL SCORE</b>	

For Near-Term Events (i.e., within 1-2 weeks), indicate decision:

NOTES:

- Continue as planned  
 Continue with adjustments noted to the left  
 Cancel  
 Reschedule with conditions noted to the left

For Future Events (i.e., within 1-2 months or more), indicate decision:

NOTES:

- Continue as planned  
 Continue with adjustments noted to the left  
 Cancel  
 Reschedule with conditions noted to the left  
 Revisit by: (note date) \_\_\_\_\_

Point of Contact for Event/Meeting: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Review: \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>i</sup> Each individual campus should determine what constitutes “core mission activities.” The goal of this guidance is to sustain as much of our core mission activities for as long as possible.

<sup>ii</sup> Each individual campus should determine what constitutes “large” for their unique institutional context.