

We are writing to inform the campus community of some changes and advisories that have recently been issued that impact each of us. El Dorado County moved to the most restrictive [purple tier](#), per Governor Newsom. The City of South Lake Tahoe moved to purple as of noon, Tuesday, November 17, 2020. New guidance related to wearing masks and a travel advisory have all been released over the last week. This is all in response to the growing cases not only statewide, but nationally.

The LTCC fall quarter was designed to proceed without interruption to students and staff, even if a more restrictive tier were to be declared by the state of California. This cautious approach to the creation of the fall schedule and our access protocols allow for the college to continue operations without any changes in the day to day activities taking place on campus.

**The Widespread (purple) tier** in the [Guidance for Higher Education](#) outlines college activities as: *closed for indoor lectures and student gatherings, and some courses conducted in certain indoor settings, like labs and studio arts, may be open.* This elevated tier does not change what we are presently doing to protect staff/faculty and students. The hybrid labs will continue. Essential staff will still be permitted to work on campus. Again, we set up the fall quarter in anticipation of a potential widespread declaration so that the campus community had stability and would not be subjected to last minute interruptions or changes.

However, this change does come with **new mask mandates** for the state of California. *All Californians must wear face coverings when they are outside of the home, unless one of the specified exemptions applies, per California Department of Public Health ([CDPH](#)) [guidance for face coverings](#).* This updated protocol was immediately implemented on the LTCC campus and requires face coverings at all times, in all areas of campus (indoors/outdoors), with only the few exceptions noted in the link above. If someone works in an open office area, even if separated by cubicles, a mask must be worn at all times.

Additionally, on November 13, Governor Newsom issued a **travel advisory** for all [out-of-state non-essential travel](#). This advisory relates to travel that is non-essential in nature and does not affect those that live in Nevada and commute to work or class. If you travel for a non-essential purpose outside of the state of California, please note that a 14-day quarantine period will be required for LTCC.

With the Thanksgiving holiday rapidly approaching, we also want to encourage you to follow CDPH guidelines related to gathering only with members of your immediate household. As we have all heard from the media and leading doctors throughout the country, the safest way to celebrate the holidays this year is to celebrate with the people in your own home, to avoid travel, and avoid indoor or large gatherings.

Like most Americans, we can appreciate everyone's disappointment as this pandemic has disrupted all of our lives in countless ways. Like all of you, we wish we could celebrate Thanksgiving and other traditions as we have in the past. We distance ourselves now so that we are all able to gather again safely in the not too distant future.

Please help us protect our community and our families by stressing the importance of limiting interactions, social distancing, wearing a mask, practicing hand hygiene, getting tested on campus, and staying home if you are unwell.

We will continue to update campus with pertinent information as it develops, and are committed to the health and welfare of our campus community. We appreciate your understanding and patience as we work through this together. Thank you for your support!

Thank you,

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