



March 14, 2023

Dear LACCD Colleagues:

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to provide an update on ending our District's COVID-19 Emergency Declaration.

At our monthly meeting on March 1, 2023, the LACCD Board of Trustees voted to end the District's COVID-19 Emergency Declaration (attached). This action is parallel to Gov. Gavin Newsom's ending of [California's COVID-19 State of Emergency](#). With the number of COVID-19-positive cases and hospitalizations declining and with a majority of persons vaccinated, the pandemic is thankfully entering a much less serious phase. As we all take a collective sigh of relief with the news, I recognize that the past three years have come at a tremendous toll on so many. Our lives are forever changed. While we will continue to unpack the long-term effects and impact of the pandemic, it is appropriate to reflect on this significant moment in history and give thanks.

I want to acknowledge with gratitude, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, all of you and your countless hours of dedication and personal resolve to the success of our students, in spite of the unpredictable environment and conditions. Your valor and unselfish service allowed us to maintain operational continuity at all nine colleges, educational centers and the District Office. Because of your tireless work, LACCD was able to keep the promise of education and deliver on our educational mission, even during the height of the pandemic, without any pause to instruction, student services, facilities construction, technology, campus safety or campus and District operations—a remarkable and heroic feat.

One group in particular that directed, managed and built the critical infrastructure during the everchanging pandemic was our districtwide Emergency Operations Center (EOC). This devoted and steadfast group of 43 colleagues from around the District, led by Deputy Chancellor Melinda Nish, became a synchronized 24-hour operation that worked closely with each college's Incident Command Center (ICC). The ICCs, led by our college presidents, provided extraordinary day-to-day leadership. The administration, faculty, and staff frontline workers at each college kept our campuses open, safe and sanitized throughout the entire pandemic.

This herculean task required working closely with the LA County Department of Public Health to follow all recommended COVID-19 mandates, guidance, and health and safety protocols. This coordinated effort ensured that our colleges, employees and students had current information, and the necessary supplies and equipment needed to remain safe and to mitigate risk.

Your lasting legacy of navigating this once-in-a-lifetime health crisis will stand the test of time. We have proven that we can pivot quickly to meet the changing needs of our students, infusing pervasive instructional and service technologies, bringing flexibility to our work and learning environments, and focusing on serving our communities through education. Through it all, we are providing a significant return on the investment and trust that the public places on us and our educational responsibility to serve this region.

Thank you again for being such a key part of this life and institution-changing effort.

With profound respect, admiration and endless gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Francisco C. Rodriguez".

Francisco C. Rodriguez, Ph.D.  
Chancellor