

# STAY HOME. SAVE LIVES.



## Higher Education Coordinating Commission:

### Timeline of Response to COVID-19 (*updated through April 1, 2020*)

#### Friday, February 28:

- Governor Brown established the Coronavirus Response Team (CRT) to lead in preparation for and response to COVID-19. The CRT consists of the Governor's Office and directors from DAS, OHA, DHS, ODE, DOC, OYA, Military, OEM, State Police, HECC and Transportation. It is led by state COO Katy Coba and holds daily calls to brief agency directors and coordinate the state policy response.
- Oregon officials announce the state's first presumptive case of COVID-19.

#### Sunday, March 1:

- HECC identified COVID-19 points of contacts for each college and university in Oregon and partnered with University of Oregon to establish an online hub for institutional leaders to share resources for preparing for and responding to a COVID-19 outbreak.

#### Monday, March 2:

- Governor Brown activated the Emergency Command Center (ECC). HECC staff participates in daily briefing/planning calls with ECC leadership.

#### Tuesday, March 3:

- HECC convened the first of several conference calls for college and university officials with Oregon Health Authority officials to address questions related to managing a COVID-19 outbreak in residence halls, among other topics.
- HECC established a [dedicated website](#) for higher education-related COVID-19 updates.

#### Friday, March 6:

- HECC published to its website and distributed its first FAQ for colleges, universities, and students on best practices for preparing for and responding to COVID-19.

**Key:** → External event    → Higher education coordination    → Workforce coordination  
→ Agency operations



[www.oregon.gov/highered](http://www.oregon.gov/highered)

### **Sunday, March 8:**

- Governor Brown declared a state of emergency.
- HECC joined OHA and ODE in releasing closure and related guidance and best practices for educational institutions, urging them to view closure as a last resort. This was published to the HECC website and distributed to mailing lists.

### **Thursday, March 12:**

- Governor Brown prohibited gatherings of 250 or more people and announced a statewide schools closure through March 31.
- HECC and community college presidents start holding daily COVID-19 calls.

### **Friday, March 13:**

- HECC issued COVID-19 guidance to licensed private career schools, related to options for temporary suspension of operations and transitioning to online learning.
- HECC leadership requested most staff to telework if able.

### **Sunday, March 15**

- HECC published to its website and distributed an updated FAQ for colleges and universities with new information from OHA on best practices with residence halls, a new subpage to the HECC COVID-19 website linking to all the COVID-related [institutional update pages](#), updated guidance related to closures in alignment with the recent Governor orders, and guidance for Private Career Schools.
- HECC IT established new layers of network security for all teleworking staff.

### **Monday, March 16:**

- HECC issued COVID-19 guidance to authorized degree-granting private colleges and universities, related to temporary suspension of operations, temporary distance learning options, and other issues.
- Governor Brown created and convened the first meeting of a Coronavirus Economic Advisory Council consisting of state agencies (HECC, Business Oregon, Oregon Employment Department, Housing, Consumer and Business Services), employer representatives, labor representatives, and legislators.
- HECC and public university Provosts start holding daily COVID-19 calls.

### **Tuesday, March 17:**

- Governor Brown issued Executive Order 20-08, prohibiting gatherings of 25 or more people, banned on-site consumption of food and drink at food establishments statewide, and extended K-12 schools closures through April 28.

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### Wednesday, March 18:

- Governor Brown issued Executive Order 20-09, suspending in-person instructional activity at Oregon higher education institutions through April 28<sup>th</sup> and requiring institutions to limit other on-campus activities to critical operations.
- HECC leadership moved all employees to telework status, with the exception of a very small number of positions for which this was not feasible. Between March 15 and March 23, leadership and IT staff worked to ensure that about 95% of HECC staff could work productively from home.
- HECC leadership began holding daily conference calls.
- HECC staff developed preliminary projections of the financial impact of COVID-19 on Oregon higher education institutions. These were shared with the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (SHEEO) and others entities conducting federal advocacy.

### Friday, March 20:

- HECC issued on its website and distributed new and updated guidance on the implementation of Executive Order 20-09, addressing how Oregon higher education institutions should identify exceptions to the general prohibition on in-person instructional activity and campus operations. This included a new subpage to the HECC COVID-19 website containing a [FAQ for colleges and universities](#) on topics of high interest.
- HECC issued updated guidance to private career schools and private Oregon-based degree granting colleges.
- HECC leadership launched weekly all-staff teleconference calls for updates to employees.
- HECC's Office of Workforce Investment launched weekly teleconferences with all four OWI-supported boards (WTDB, Oregon Volunteers, STEM Council, OYC Advisory Committee) and grantees, plus three-times per week meetings with local workforce boards.

### Saturday, March 21:

- HECC submitted a \$25 million grant request to the US Department of Labor to provide support services payments (eg rent/mortgage, utilities, childcare, health care) to Oregonians in all 36 counties through the State's nine local workforce development boards.

### Monday, March 23:

- Governor Brown issued Executive Order 20-12, requiring Oregonians to stay at home except for certain activities, closing specified retail businesses, closing state buildings to the public, and imposing other social distancing requirements.
- HECC completed and submitted to the State Emergency Command Center (ECC) a survey of potential shelter beds at Oregon colleges and universities.

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### **Tuesday, March 24:**

- HECC staff developed and release to higher education institutions a survey of COVID-related financial impacts, due in early April.
- HECC and higher education labor representatives (SEIU, AFT, OEA, AAUP, AOF) start holding twice-weekly COVID-19 calls.

### **Wednesday, March 25:**

- Five HECC staff voluntarily redeployed to the Oregon Department of Employment to support the processing of unemployment insurance claims. Additional redeployment opportunities may become available.

### **Thursday, March 26:**

- HECC released to its staff a new intranet (HECC-Net) platform to keep staff informed and connected across all our offices, including a location to house staff-related COVID-19 announcements. This had been in development for months but was accelerated to support the new telework environment.

### **Friday, March 27:**

- President Trump signed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, which includes over \$30 billion for education including at least \$14 billion directly aiding higher education institutions and college students. HECC staff begin evaluating the Oregon-specific impacts, including maintenance of effort requirements for the State.
- HECC with other agencies started participating in the State's newly established COVID Joint Information Center, a central communications hub for state agency Public Information Officers.
- HECC-OSAC announced new flexibility for scholarships and awards it administers, including adjustments to deadlines, continuous enrollment requirements, and some other program requirements.

### **Monday, March 30:**

- HECC submitted a \$12 million grant request to the US Department of Labor for support for dislocated workers affected by the current economic crisis.

### **Tuesday, March 31**

- HECC issued COVID-19 guidance for accelerated learning partnerships.

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