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**From:** Bernadine Chuck Fong <fongbernadine@fhda.edu>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 2, 2022 5:53 PM  
**To:** foothill  
**Subject:** "A New Year and A New Start"  
**Attachments:** Health-Officer-Order-December-28-2021.pdf

"A New Year and A New Start" was supposed to be the title of my New Year's message to all of you, but that was before the outburst of the Omicron variant. However, I will still say that it is a New Year, and may I wish each of you a *happier and healthier* New Year than the previous one. And, yes, we are still going to entertain a "new start," meaning a gradual re-opening of our campus. Why?

We are re-opening and gradually increasing the number of in person classes because of the disproportionate impact the pandemic has had on our most marginalized students or now former students. While community colleges, nationally, as well as locally, have already been experiencing enrollment decline in the last decade (due to fewer traditional college age people because of declining birthrates and other factors), the decline was exacerbated by the pandemic. And Foothill, unfortunately, is not unscathed. Whereas the national community college enrollment decline is 11%; the state's community college enrollment decline is roughly 15% which is also representative of Foothill's decline. However, the sharpest declines, nationally, statewide, and for Foothill, have been the greatest among students who are already marginalized. Lack of a computer, internet and/or expertise to take classes online, living in tight quarters or other household stresses to take classes online, were often reasons related to these students dropping out. I was struck by a San Jose City College student who dropped her online classes and was interviewed by a local newspaper, saying, "I still haven't had the experience of going to college in person. I'm waiting for the right time to come back." "Going to college in person," isn't that what most of us think of when we went to college or sent our kids to college? Isn't this the experience we want for our most marginalized students who have already been deprived of so much already?

This is why we are returning to campus. A recent article from Columbia's Community College Research Center, "*Catastrophe or Catalyst? Reflections on COVID's Impact on Community Colleges*," says it all, and suggests how do we take what could be a catastrophe and turn it into a catalyst. Or in the words of Winston Churchill, "Never let a good crisis go to waste." Thus, we have the opportunity to not only safely re-open the campus according to the most current guidelines from our county's health department, but to do so in ways that truly reflect who we are and who and what we care about.

While we are not playing the Monopoly game, we are trying to "pass Go" and get past the pandemic. At this point the latest recommendation (Dec. 28, 2021) from the County Health Officer (Sarah Cody, M.D.) is: "Unless everyone is wearing face masks at all times for the duration of the gathering, individuals should not gather indoors in groups of more than 10 people from outside their household," (Sec. 4.b, p. 5). Thus, we can continue to hold in person classes, as long as masks are worn by all. This is actually not any different from what we have been planning and doing all along. As members of the Foothill community, you have all been very diligent and responsible in adhering to county and district policies and guidelines, and as a result, we remain a safe campus. You will also see that our website reflects the latest County's guidelines and mask adherence which we will continue to require of all our students, and this should be reinforced, whether the student is in the classroom, lab, or in one of our offices, <https://foothill.edu/>

Also, keep in mind, as we are abiding by *our* county's guidelines, they may be different from other counties as vaccinated and boosted population rates vary from county to county. Also, we are actively monitoring the plans of other campuses and they may differ from ours as many institutions are in other counties, where different guidelines and circumstances apply.

I am attaching the county's guidelines and the overall recommendations for maintaining a healthy and safe environment. I am also attaching at the end of this email, the one I sent last Wednesday, December 29<sup>th</sup>, regarding our use of the Modo app and the requirement that students must display their green badge to enter a classroom, lab, or office. This is our greatest assurance that we can maintain a safe campus. Students with a red badge should not be on campus at all and we must be particularly vigilant about this.

Thank you for your patience and perseverance in this ever evolving landscape and helping to make Foothill a safe and welcoming place. It will be a happier New Year!

Best regards,

*Bernadine*

Bernadine Chuck Fong, Ph.D.  
Acting President, Foothill College  
Senior Scholar and Director of Leadership Initiatives, Stanford University

December 29<sup>th</sup> email:

No doubt, the Omicron virus is on everyone's mind, as we prepare for the opening of our Winter Quarter. Laurie Scolari and the Student and Health Services teams have prepared this email to update you and also to remind you of our protocols. We want to thank these groups for being vigilant during the winter break and doing everything they can to help us remain a safe and healthy campus.

Colleagues,

As you may be aware, Foothill College has been using the Modo app to monitor students' health status. Despite earlier communication to the contrary, Foothill will continue to use the Modo app for students in the Winter quarter. This means that faculty and student support staff will continue to ask for the "green badges" to be displayed on students' modo app before entering a classroom or service area. Please see frequently asked questions below.

### **What is the Modo app?**

The Modo app is a health self-assessment application that students may access on their phones. The purpose of the app is to ensure students are symptom-free. Please see detailed [instructions](#) for students.

### **What do I do when a student enters my classroom and or service area?**

Please ask the student to show you their green badge from their daily health assessment. Most returning students are familiar with the app, however if a student is confused or not clear on what to do, you may say, "there is an app called Modo that can be accessed in MyPortal. You must complete the health assessment questionnaire in the app before entering any facility on campus every day that you are on campus. Please complete this task before entering.

If you need help, please visit our health center located at Campus Center, Building 2100 Lower Level room 2126 for help. Once you can show me your green badge you may return.”

### **How do students access the Modo app?**

The Modo app is available through MyPortal. If they are a prospective student and/or don't yet have access to MyPortal, they may receive a green wrist band at the information booth that will be stationed in front of Admissions and Records for the first two weeks of classes, or they may visit the [health center](#) on campus from 8 AM to 5 PM Monday through Friday.

### **What do I do if a student gets a “red badge” and a “don’t come to campus” notification after doing their daily health assessment?**

Please refer the student to the [Red Badge Instructions page](#) on what to do next. Students who may post a risk of COVID-19 transmission are “red-badged” which means they are not permitted to come to campus for the entire day. If the student tells you that they believe an error occurred, they can schedule a free [telemedicine appointment](#) with our health center that day to possibly get admitted to campus that day.

Additional detailed [FAQ's](#) for Faculty and Staff are available. Should you or a student have additional questions, please contact our health center via email at [covidquestions@fhda.edu](mailto:covidquestions@fhda.edu) or via phone at 650.949.7243.

As a reminder, all student service areas will be open from 8 AM to 5 PM Monday through Thursday for in-person services starting on January 3. On Fridays, services will be available virtually, except for the first Friday of classes, we will be open for in-person services as well.

We look forward to a safe, healthy, and productive start to the Winter quarter.

*Laurie Scolari, Vice President of Student Services*

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Best regards,

*Bernadine*