

March 16, 2020

Dear Southwestern College Student,

While we operate as a remote campus in response to the COVID-19 situation, below are some important resources we would like to share regarding access to **Wi-Fi**, computers/laptops, and unemployment.

**Free Access to Cox **Wi-Fi** Hotspots:**

We have received confirmation from Cox Communications that they have opened all their hot spots to the public to aid in the Coronavirus response efforts. You will no longer need to have a Cox account to access the hot spots.

To locate Cox hotspots near you, visit: <https://www.cox.com/aboutus/wifi-hotspot-map.html>. You can connect to any Cox hotspot like you connect to any wifi network.

1. Turn on wifi and search for networks
2. Select the CableWiFi or CoxWiFi wireless network
3. Launch your Internet browser (if asked, choose Cox from the list of Internet providers)
4. Sign in with your Cox User ID and Password (don't have one? Register now ›)

**Low-Cost Home Internet Service:**

Cox Communications is also offering low-cost internet home service for \$9.95/month for families with school age children (free for first 30 days) through the Cox Connect2Compete program. Learn more at: <http://www.cox.com/c2c>

**Access to Computers and Laptops:**

Computers2Kids, a local nonprofit, offers computers and laptops loaded with Microsoft Office for \$80 and \$100 for low-income students. Students can go to [www.c2sdk.org](http://www.c2sdk.org) or call 858-200-9788.

**If your employer has reduced your work hours or shut down due to COVID-19:**

If your employer has reduced your hours or shut down operations due to COVID-19, you can [file an Unemployment Insurance \(UI\) claim](#). UI provides partial wage replacement benefit payments to workers who lose their job or have their hours reduced, through no fault of their own. Workers who are temporarily unemployed due to COVID-19 and expected to return to work with their employer within a few weeks are not required to actively seek work each week. However, they must remain able and available and ready to work during their unemployment for each week of benefits claimed and meet all other eligibility criteria. Eligible individuals can receive benefits that range from \$40-\$450 per week.

The [Governor's Executive Order](#) waives the one-week unpaid waiting period, so you can collect UI benefits for the first week you are out of work. If you are eligible, the EDD processes and issues payments within a few weeks of receiving a claim.

You can file a claim online at: [https://www.edd.ca.gov/Unemployment/Filing\\_a\\_Claim.htm](https://www.edd.ca.gov/Unemployment/Filing_a_Claim.htm)

We realize that these above resources do not address all the needs of our students, particularly our students across the border. We are still working diligently to address these additional needs and will continue to provide updates and resources as we receive them.

Sincerely,

Southwestern College  
Student Affairs Division