

Virtual Tech Hub Internet Access Guide

Virtual classes are starting next week and Foothill College understands that some students may be struggling with their Internet connection. In order to help those in need, the Virtual Hub Tech Ambassadors have decided to look into some of the different ways available to access the internet.

[Purchasing a Hotspot](#)

Those who **do not have internet or reliable services** have the option to purchase a hotspot. A hotspot is a device that allows people to obtain Internet access, typically using Wi-Fi, using a router connected to an Internet service provider. You can purchase hotspots at places like Best Buy, Target, Walmart or any place with a phone company stand.

[Public Wifi](#)

Another option is to use a public WIFI or an “Open Hotspot,” which are located in local or open spaces.

[Internet & Cellular Service Deals](#)

There is a possibility to look into the current deals that are happening with existing internet providers. Some of these deals ask that you enter into a contract while others offer their services no strings attached. We advise you to contact that service provider for more information.

Additionally, it has come to our attention that some cellular phone companies are extending customer's GB for the month. This may allow you to access the internet longer if you're on a limited plan. You may also be able to use your phone as a hotspot. We encourage you to contact your cellular provider to find out if they are offering deals/freebies to help customers through the COVID-19 crisis.

Purchasing a Hotspot

California Connect Mobile Hotspot

A few things about the product:

- Only available for California residents.
- It has a one-time payment of \$79.99 for the mobile device and then a \$19.99 monthly subscription.
- Applicable taxes, shipping and handling may vary.
- The hotspot device can be obtained through College Buys at this website:
<https://shop.collegebuys.org/coolpad-surf---mobile-internet-1999monthly-p9355.aspx>^[L]_{SEP}

[Instructions on how to install this hot spot.](#)

Public WIFI

Xfinity & AT&T Open Hotspots

Both Xfinity and AT&T have opened their Wi-Fi hotspots for anyone who needs them. You would connect to them the same way you connect to the Foothill College Wi-Fi, with the exception that they will not require a username or password. However, you should be aware that those hotspots are not available everywhere and that there may not be any in your community.

We know that sometimes it can be a bit tricky to connect to a hotspot and that each company may require different steps. We are attaching links to the instructions on how to access those hotspots but we do encourage you to use their “Chat with an agent” features if you have any questions or it is not working.

Instructions on how to connect to the **Xfinity** open hotspots:

<https://www.xfinity.com/support/articles/open-xfinity-wifi-hotspots>

Instructions on how to connect to the **AT&T** open hotspots:

<https://www.att.com/support/article/wireless/KM1103818>

Please note that hotspots located in people’s homes are not opened to the public.

Internet & Cellular Service Deals

We have listed the links for the four major phone companies in the United States. If your internet service is not run by any of those, we would recommend you look up your provider’s response to the Coronavirus situation.

T-Mobile’s

[Read T-Mobile’s response to the CoVid19 situation.](#)

Verizon

[Read Verizon’s information regarding fees and charges.](#)

[Read Verizon’s frequently asked questions regarding their CoVid-19 response.](#)

AT&T

[Read how AT&T is handling the CoVid-19 situation.](#)

[Read AT&T’s updates on their services.](#)

Sprint

[Read Sprint’s news on their services during this crisis.](#)