Dear CSUSM students,

We are pleased to confirm that CSUSM courses and instruction will return to their previously scheduled modalities on Monday, Feb. 7. Thank you for your patience and flexibility during this brief period when we had to pivot back online. We know it has not been easy, and you have continued to show your resilience in pursuing your educational aspirations during this time.

Throughout January, we continued to monitor the campus, regional and statewide data related to COVID-19 rates. All indicators point to a steady and ongoing decline since the holiday surge in late December and early January. We also know that other higher education institutions – including SDSU and UCSD – have announced their plans to resume in the coming days.

Mask-Wearing Protocol

As we return to campus, we will continue to follow protocols recommended by public health experts. In January 2022, Cal/OSHA updated its standard and definition for face coverings indoors, stating that proper face coverings include a three-ply surgical or medical procedure mask, a respirator worn voluntarily, or a tightly woven fabric or non-woven material of at least two layers. A proper face covering cannot have visible holes or openings and must cover the nose and mouth. A face covering does not include a scarf, ski mask, balaclava, bandana, turtleneck, collar or single layer of fabric.

The California Department of Public Health also recommended in January that people upgrade from cloth face coverings to either surgical masks or N95/N95/KF94 disposable respirators given the more transmittable Omicron variant.

Masks must be worn indoors at CSUSM, and we highly encourage the use of upgraded masks when inside a campus building. Keep in mind:

- Good: a surgical mask
- Better: a surgical mask with a cloth mask worn over it
- Best: a KN95 mask (or the equivalent)

We will be placing hand sanitizer stations and disposable masks at the entrances of all campus buildings.

Vaccine Requirement and Mandatory COVID-19 Testing for Exempted Students

The CSU COVID-19 booster requirement took effect on Jan. 18. All students eligible to receive a booster must upload proof of booster vaccination, or within 30 days of becoming eligible for the booster. To learn more, visit: [https://www.csusm.edu/csusmasone/plans/student-vax.html](https://www.csusm.edu/csusmasone/plans/student-vax.html)

If you are eligible to receive a booster but have not had a chance to schedule an appointment yet, CSUSM is hosting a vaccine and booster drive at The McMahan House on the San Marcos campus tomorrow, Wednesday, Feb. 2 and next Wednesday, Feb. 9.

Walk-up appointments are available while supplies last.

Students who are required to test weekly as a condition of their approved COVID-19 vaccination exemption must begin testing this week to be cleared for on-campus classes next week. Please check your recent email inbox (dated Jan. 28, 2022) and CougarBot text messages for more information about the testing requirement. For information on testing, please visit the CSUSMasOne website.

Students living in UVA or The QUAD are required to get a PCR test 72 hours before their return to campus.

We Are Here for You

With ever-shifting pandemic conditions, we know that so many are feeling a range of emotions. COVID-19 continues to test us all, and it is natural to feel stress and anxiety as we continue to manage changes related to campus policies, health-care issues, care for family and loved ones, and other unforeseen challenges.

If you need help accessing technology or on-campus housing, have questions related to academic support or parking on campus, or just need to talk to someone, the CSUSMasOne website has a range of resources for you. If you cannot find what you are looking for, please email CSUSMasOne@csusm.edu or text the CougarBot.

Cougar Question Marts are available on campus Monday, Feb. 7 and Tuesday, Feb. 8 to assist any students with questions.

We wish you a healthy spring and will keep you updated along the way.