



Dear CSUSM Community,

Today, we are pleased to share the following plans, recently approved by the CSU Office of the Chancellor and developed in consultation with members of our [Emergency Operations Center COVID Response Team](#) as well as campus and public health experts.

First and foremost, the health and safety of our community is our top priority. We have been working hard to create a safe teaching, working and learning environment on campus. While we know that we will never be able to eliminate all risk, our goal is to reduce it as much as possible by introducing multiple layers of protection and asking each member of our community to remain diligent in following critical safety practices to help protect the health of all members of our broad and diverse community. This includes wearing face coverings, practicing physical distancing as well as good hygiene, and self-monitoring for COVID-19 symptoms.

The plan outlined below may require adaptation over the course of the summer and fall should the trajectory of COVID-19 change and cases begin to rise again. We will keep you updated on any changes as we move forward.

Fall Courses

In alignment with the [CSU's decision for all 23 campuses to have a unified approach](#) to the fall semester, the majority of CSUSM's courses will be offered in virtual formats, but about 8% will be offered face-to-face or via a hybrid model. The courses that are approved for in-person instruction are primarily labs and those that use specialized equipment or have certain accreditation/licensure requirements that necessitate face-to-face experiences. The [fall course schedule has been updated](#) with the modality of each course: in-person, hybrid, synchronous or asynchronous.

Each on-campus course has a custom plan that includes requirements for necessary personal protective equipment and sanitization of high-touch equipment, furniture and fixtures. In some cases, classroom or laboratory furniture will be reconfigured to ensure that all seating is a minimum of 6 feet apart. If social distancing is not feasible, face coverings/face shields and lab coats or other body coverings will be required.

If a student is enrolled in an in-person class but cannot come to campus due to COVID-19 concerns, they should contact their course instructor. We'd like to thank the Faculty Center and IITS for supporting professional development for our faculty. In addition, our staff professionals have been diligently working this summer to enhance the delivery of remote services for students. We will be ready to engage students this fall in educational, health and wellness, and recreational content delivered online to connect them to the CSUSM experience and help build community.

Teaching and Working Remotely

We are committed to the health and safety of all members of our community. The majority of faculty and staff will teach and work remotely for the duration of the fall semester. The exceptions are a limited number (less than 10%) of faculty who are approved to teach in-person courses or engage in specific research activities, as well as certain staff who support in-person learning experiences, research and core operations that cannot be conducted remotely.

Faculty and staff unable to work onsite in the fall due to medical conditions that make them more vulnerable to COVID-19 will receive reasonable accommodations in the form of telework assignments, where available, or will be provided with leave options consistent with CSU policies and applicable collective bargaining agreements.

For those faculty and staff who are approved to work on campus, the ["Employee Screening Form"](#) should be filled out online each day before you arrive. All campus community members will be expected to wear appropriate face coverings in common and public indoor spaces, and outdoors when physical distancing is not available per the [California Department of Public Health guidance](#).

On-Campus Housing and Dining

We look forward to welcoming approximately 525 residents to our University Village Apartments and The QUAD – about 35% of normal occupancy to allow for appropriate social distancing in residential units. Given this reduced capacity, housing priority will be given to students who are enrolled in face-to-face or hybrid learning experiences, as well as international students, former foster youth and students who live out of the CSUSM service region.

Housing is collaborating with Sodexo to provide meal options for our residents.

For our other students, faculty and staff who will be learning, teaching or working on campus, please note that USU dining options, Starbucks and Campus Coffee will be closed.

Housing is communicating with students to share additional details about residential life on campus this fall. For more information, please contact housing@csusm.edu.

On-Campus Research/Creative Activities

The Office of Graduate Studies and Research is working to facilitate limited on-campus and creative activities. Lab reactivation plans will need to be prepared and submitted to the Office of Graduate Studies and Research for approval to ensure compliance with health and safety protocols. For more information, please contact gradstudies@csusm.edu.

On-Campus Computer Lab

In order to provide our students with additional internet connectivity access, we are also looking at the potential to open a computer lab on campus that would allow for appropriate social distancing. Updates will be provided once we have further information.

Athletics

In mid-May, the [California Collegiate Athletic Association \(CCAA\) announced](#) that NCAA sports competition would not occur during the fall semester, recommending that it resume when it is considered safe and appropriate to do so.

We know this decision is difficult given how important athletics is to the CSUSM experience for so many -- especially our student-athletes, athletics staff and fans -- but it was made with the health and well-being of everyone in mind. Our athletics director represents CSUSM interests on a CCAA committee that is exploring how we may resume in-person activities. We will share more information as soon as it is available.

Events Canceled through December 2020

Unfortunately, due to public health considerations, all events are canceled through the end of the calendar year. Event and Conference Services is tracking reservation requests for spring 2021, but no requests will be confirmed until there is clear guidance from public health officials that it is safe to gather in large in-person groups again. If you have a question about events, please email events@csusm.edu.

Travel

Through June 30, 2021, the CSU Chancellor's Office is eliminating all nonessential international and domestic travel across the system. Exceptions may be granted on a very limited basis for compelling reasons that support the academic and co-curricular mission of the campus. Requests for exceptions for domestic travel can be made to the dean or vice president of your college or division. Exceptions for international travel will not be considered until the U.S. State Department lifts its "Level 4: Do Not Travel" advisory. Final approval of any travel rests with the President's Office.

Thank You and More to Come

While there are still some details to work out in the coming weeks, we would like to thank all those who contributed to this plan thus far. This has been a monumental task involving dozens of individuals across our institution, including faculty, staff and administrators from every division and college.

We also want to thank you for the concern you have shown for one another throughout this crisis and for the generosity of spirit that reflects our mission. We are honored to serve and support CSUSM and look forward to continuing to keep you updated as more information is available. In the meantime, if you have any questions that were not addressed in this message, we welcome your email at covid@csusm.edu.

Sincerely,

The Emergency Operations Center COVID Response Team

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