



Dear CSUSM employees,

As more information is being released about the seriousness of the COVID-19 Delta variant, which now accounts for about 80% of all new cases nationwide, we have several important updates to share with you.

To address the growing concern, this week the [CSU announced the implementation of a new policy](#), effective immediately, that requires all students and employees who come to campus be vaccinated or provide a medical or religious exemption by Sept. 30.

While we continue to work through the details of this new policy, here is what we know today.

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### Aug. 2 Return-to-Campus Date is Optional

Monday, Aug. 2 was designated as the return to campus date for the majority of our non-faculty employees. To give us more time to understand the implications of the Delta variant locally, we are postponing this date. [You may still return to campus if you wish, but it is no longer mandatory for most employees](#). If you haven't previously been working on campus and plan to return Aug. 2, please contact your supervisor to let them know.

**Please note, if you have already been part of the dedicated population that has been providing critical on-campus operations, you will need to continue doing so.** If you are unsure if you need to return next week, please check with your supervisor. Our sincere thanks to those who continue to support these important functions – you are extremely valued and appreciated.

Managers should reach out to employees who are off work today due to adjusted 9/80 schedules, vacations or other absences, to ensure they are aware of this new information.

Next week, we will provide an update on when all non-faculty employees should plan to return to campus to prepare for the fall semester. Given the ever-shifting information and data, we may need to take this decision day by day, and your understanding and flexibility is greatly appreciated. We do continue to anticipate a full return to campus before the beginning of the fall semester, and more information will be communicated as soon as possible.

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### Food Trucks – Monday, Aug. 2

The welcome back celebration slated for Aug. 2 is being scaled back given that many may choose not to return at this time. However, food trucks will still be available from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Kellogg Circle for those who wish to enjoy a complimentary lunch. For those who are unvaccinated, it is required that you wear a mask outdoors when social distancing is not possible.

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### Mandatory CSU Vaccine Policy

The CSU Chancellor's Office announced earlier this week that all students and employees who access campus facilities across the system need to be immunized against SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) or receive an approved exemption.

[This policy](#) is effective immediately and the CSU has imposed a deadline of Sept. 30 for students and all employees (including auxiliary employees) to verify their vaccination record OR request a medical or religious exemption OR, if applicable and in rare cases, declare that they will not be accessing campus at this time.

All students and employees who are currently unvaccinated should get their first dose by [Friday, Aug. 20](#). This will provide enough time to become fully vaccinated (meaning at least two weeks have passed after the final dose of their respective vaccine regiment) by the Sept. 30 deadline.

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### Uploading Your Vaccination Record

Employees will need to share their vaccination record. Proof of vaccination can be uploaded securely through the [CSUSM Campus App](#) by tapping "COVID Resources" followed by "Employee Certification." Alternatively, employees can visit the [online webpage](#) and follow the instructions to upload their vaccination card.

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### Seeking a Vaccination Exemption

Employees may seek an exception to the vaccination requirement based on medical or sincerely held religious beliefs. The exemption process for employees will be communicated as soon as possible.

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### Public Health Testing for COVID-19

Beginning next week, all employees and students who are accessing campus will be required to vaccinate OR participate in weekly COVID-19 testing on campus. On-campus COVID-19 testing is free of charge. Please visit the [CSUSM Campus App](#) or the [Mandatory Testing Website](#) to view testing locations and hours, and make an appointment.

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### Masking

Following new federal guidance, San Diego County officials are now recommending the universal wearing of masks by both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals in indoor public settings. **Thus, employees – regardless of vaccination status – are strongly encouraged to wear face coverings indoors, particularly when interacting with students or the public.**

For unvaccinated employees – or those not yet fully vaccinated – face coverings are required indoors and outdoors when six feet of physical distancing cannot be maintained.

We are conferring with the County of San Diego on ongoing mask guidance and will provide updates.

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### Accessing Vaccines

In the United States, everyone 12 years of age or older is eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccination.

The federal government has set up a [very informative website with quick links to find a COVID-19 vaccination location near you](#). In addition, the [CSU Vaccination Information and Resources webpage](#) has comprehensive information and links about the COVID-19 vaccine.

Extensive testing and monitoring have shown that COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective. These vaccines are not experimental and are based on science that's been available for decades. The vaccines went through all the required stages of clinical trials and have met the FDA's rigorous scientific standards for safety, effectiveness and manufacturing quality. Millions of people in the United States have already received COVID-19 vaccines under the most intense safety monitoring in US history. [Learn more about the safety of vaccines](#).

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### Reconnecting to Campus Technology

As you return to your campus office, you should anticipate that your technology will require significant time before operating as expected. One possible issue you might encounter is an error message when first trying to log in to your computer. To resolve this issue, you will have to "forget" your campus Wi-Fi on your wireless devices (laptop, phone, tablet), wait 15 to 20 minutes and try logging in to your computer again.

IITS will be working hard to support our community's return and respond to all requests for assistance, but given the expected amount of support requests, we ask for your patience and goodwill.

For more information, please visit the [IITS Reconnect to Campus website](#) or the [online Guide for Forgetting Wi-Fi](#).

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### Thank You

Thank you for all that you are doing to protect yourselves and our extended community by receiving the vaccine if you can. Getting as many people vaccinated as possible is the best long-term answer to ending the COVID-19 pandemic so that we can fully focus on our very important mission of supporting student success. Getting vaccinated helps those in our community who cannot because of pre-existing medical conditions; it helps those who have children who are not yet vaccine eligible; and it helps those who have family members who are immunocompromised.

Moving forward, we will continue to watch the COVID-19 trends in Southern California and provide updates as frequently as possible. We are grateful for your continued patience and cooperation. Please email University Communications at [CSUSMasOne@csusm.edu](mailto:CSUSMasOne@csusm.edu) if you have additional questions that we can address in future communications.

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