



Dear CSUSM Community,

We are pleased with the safety and precautions that have been taken by our students during this difficult time. As San Diego County public health officials continue to monitor COVID-19 cases throughout the County, given regional and state-wide rate increases, we must all continue to take great care.

We encourage all members of our campus community to remain safe and to follow the public health guidelines and order currently in place, especially as Halloween is approaching.

#### **Recommended Stay-at-Home Advisory to Go into Effect**

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control [highly discourages](#) everyone from participating in Halloween or social activities where physical distancing cannot be maintained. San Diego County public health officials have also recently asked everyone to avoid in-person costume parties and suggests [alternative ways to safely celebrate Halloween](#).

To help mitigate COVID-19 cases within the CSUSM student body, the university is introducing a temporary recommended Stay-at-Home Advisory for students, no matter their location on or off campus.

Under the advisory, students are encouraged to stay home, with the exception of essential needs. The advisory will begin at 5 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 30, and will remain in effect through Monday, Nov. 2, at 6 a.m. During this period, students are invited to participate in any of the virtual events detailed below, as well as to otherwise leave their residences only to engage in essential functions: in support of academic activities or coursework, to go to work, obtain meals or medical care, or to vote.

#### **Halloween-Related Virtual Events**

In support of student engagement during the ongoing pandemic and during the Stay-at-Home Advisory period, CSUSM is hosting virtual events in partnership with SDSU and invites students to participate:

- Oct. 26-30, [Harvest Fest](#): Join us for one of the virtual events, including a scavenger hunt, escape room, costume contest, scary room contest, and trivia. Details and Zoom links are available on the event page online.
- Saturday, Oct. 31 SDSU & CSUSM are collaborating for Tukwut Life and [Aztec Nights: Halloween Spook-Tacular](#), a virtual event from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. featuring a magic show, games, prizes, a costume contest, and other activities. Students are invited to [join via Zoom](#) the night of the event.

#### **Be Mindful**

If you choose to participate in Halloween activities, we encourage you to think about the many cultures of our community and why they should not be used as costumes and themes. Some costumes reinforce stereotypes of particular races, genders, cultures or religions, and do not create a welcoming and inclusive environment. Regardless of intent, these costumes can perpetuate negative stereotypes, causing harm and offense to groups of people. Also, keep in mind that social media posts can have a long-term impact on your personal and professional reputation.

#### **Enforcement is Ongoing**

We appreciate that the majority of our community is following the guidance, but we must address reports of gatherings off campus. These gatherings are out of compliance with CSUSM's conduct policies and the public health ordinance we must all follow, and which have the potential to result in others becoming sick.

It takes only one person, even one who is asymptomatic, to create a public health risk. As members of this community, and with the care of others in mind, we again ask you to avoid gatherings of any type that do not comply with public health guidelines. We seek disciplinary action against those who willingly engage in behaviors that put themselves and others at risk of contracting COVID-19.

As always, refer to the [CSUSM as One](#) site for information and updates, including [Health & Safety](#) information to protect yourself and others. Again, we thank you all.

Lorena Checa,  
Vice President of Student Affairs

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Dean of Students

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