Dear campus community,

Just a few days ago, the World Health Organization designated Omicron a new COVID-19 variant of concern. There is still much to learn about the variant as scientists analyze genomic and epidemiological data to understand if the variant is more virulent or more transmissible than Delta.

Already, our campus community has done an outstanding job of limiting the transmission of COVID-19 on campus. Thanks to mask-wearing, comprehensive testing, contact tracing and high vaccination rates, we have not seen any major episodes of community transmission. In fact, there has been no evidence of transmission in classroom settings or related to academic work. As we await more information about Omicron, it’s important that as a campus community we close out the fall semester strong and not relax our precautions or standards.

We should continue to take the steps that have proven to be effective: get vaccinated or get the booster if you are able; wear a mask indoors; wash your hands; stay home when sick; get tested if you have been exposed or are symptomatic; and report any positive results online or to covidcasereporting@csusm.edu. If you need to find a vaccine or booster near you, visit vaccines.gov – anyone 18 or older in California is now eligible to receive a booster.

During this holiday season, when so many are traveling and preparing to gather indoors with extended family and friends, please be proactive in monitoring your symptoms and participating in routine testing. CSUSM’s COVID-19 testing center at the Clarke Field House is quick and user-friendly with nearly zero wait time most of the time. You can drop in during the hours of operation OR make an appointment via the campus app or online. Furthermore, the COVID-19 Case Management Team will be working and available over the holiday break to assist our community.

Thank you for your support and continuing to work together to keep our campus safe. As we know all too well at this stage of the pandemic, this will be a dynamic process that may require us to adapt and pivot, just as we have done throughout the past 21 months. We will share important information as soon as we have it from public health officials locally and nationally. In the meantime, stay safe and be well.

Sincerely,

James Chun, M.D.
Physician/Interim Medical Director

Christina Drumm, M.P.H.
COVID-19 Case Management Coordinator