



Dear Campus Community,

We have been monitoring the implementation of the new regional stay-at-home order that was announced by Gov. Newsom earlier this week. Unfortunately, we must share with you that effective Sunday, December 6 at 11:59 p.m., a new California State Department of Public Health stay-at-home order will take effect. [This order](#) requires all individuals in Southern California to stay home and minimize their interactions with other households due to the fact that our region's intensive care unit capacity has fallen below 15%.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) offers an overview of the order and what regional services and functions will be allowed, limited or closed during this time. The order will remain in effect for at least three weeks and, after that period, will be lifted when our region's projected ICU capacity meets or exceeds 15%. This will be assessed on a weekly basis after the initial three-week period.

CSUSM Impact

With news of rising COVID-19 cases, we had been preparing for the possibility of new restrictions. Thanks to measures already in place to protect the health and safety of our campus community, the impact to current campus operations will be minimal.

In late November, CSUSM transitioned most of the limited number of face-to-face classes that were previously permitted to take place on campus back to virtual formats. At this time, the few courses that were approved to continue in-person may do so unless we receive further guidance.

In addition, given our already cautious approach to on-campus staffing, only a limited number of employees are currently working in-person. If you are an employee who has been approved to come to campus to perform a critical business function or research, your supervisor or the Office of Graduate Studies and Research will inform you if there are any changes. If you have questions about whether you should report to work in person or remotely, please connect with your supervisor.

Our University Police Department remains open 24/7. Call 760-750-4567 for UPD dispatch or 911 in case of an emergency.

[Student health services](#) are available. Students should call 760-750-4915, Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. first before arriving in person. If you need to speak to a counselor immediately but it is after hours, please call and press 9 to be directly connected with a phone counselor who is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Housing also remains open to the small population of students who have chosen to live on campus.

Please note, the USU Computer Lab is required to close for the rest of the fall semester, but students will continue to have access to a [full range of virtual academic support and student success services](#). If the closing of the computer lab presents an issue for you, please [contact IITS](#) to request technology resources.

We are in this Together

With looming end-of-semester deadlines and holiday stress, we know these new restrictions come at a time when so many of us are already shouldering so much. Please remember that we have these valuable resources to help you:

For students, the [Cougar Care Network](#) provides information, connection to resources, advocacy and support in dealing with personal, academic, financial or other challenges. Contact the Cougar Care Network at ccn@csusm.edu or 760-750-7627.

[Student Health and Counseling Services](#) is committed to supporting students' health needs and promoting their social, emotional and physical well-being. Contact SHCS at shcs@csusm.edu or 760-750-4915 to make an appointment.

For faculty, [FACES](#) offers resources and, for staff, the [Staff Center](#) is available. For all employees, [EAP](#) provides special services.

Our [CSUSM as One](#) website has extensive information and resources to help you navigate the fall semester.

Finally, the County of San Diego continues to offer [free COVID-19 testing](#) on campus seven days a week.

This has been quite a challenging year but we will finish out the semester strong and in the same spirit of collaboration, care and creativity that we started it. Thank you for all that you are doing to care for yourselves and each other. Stay safe and be well.

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