



To: CSUSM students, faculty and staff

As we prepare for the campus closure (Dec. 24 through Jan. 1) and winter break, we would like to share a few COVID-19 updates.

### CA Notify

If you're not aware of it already, we'd like to inform you about CA Notify, California's new COVID-19 exposure notification system. Once it's activated on your smartphone, CA Notify utilizes the phone's Bluetooth to send alerts if you were in close contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19.

For example, if two people with exposure notifications turned on come within 6 feet of each other for at least 15 minutes within a day, their phones will exchange randomly generated keys that log the close interaction. If one person later tests positive for COVID-19 and agrees to share that information with CA Notify, then the other will receive an alert that they have been exposed, including instructions on who to contact and what to do next.

It's important to mention that CA Notify protects your privacy in that it does not gather your name, contact information, location or movements, or the identity of the people you meet.

Adding your phone to CA Notify is regarded as another important tool in the fight against the pandemic, along with wearing a mask, social distancing and washing your hands.

Since the alert system was launched last week, more than 6 million people have signed up and hundreds have been informed of possible exposure, according to health officials. For directions on how to add your phone, go to the CA Notify [website](#).

### Have a Safe Holiday Season

Besides encouraging you to sign up for CA Notify, we want to offer some reminders that will help you enjoy a safe holiday season. Please continue to do your part by wearing a face mask when around others outside of your immediate home or family unit, maintain a physical distance of at least 6 feet, practice good hygiene, and get tested if you think you may have been exposed, have been in a high-risk environment or are showing symptoms of COVID. The [county-operated testing site at CSUSM](#) offers free testing to the public and is open seven days a week, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Because of the surge of COVID-19 cases throughout the country, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and regional public health officials are discouraging holiday travel. If you must travel, you should get tested before and after, per public health guidelines.

Additionally, the state has issued an [advisory for nonessential, out-of-state travel](#), which states that persons should self-quarantine for 14 days following their return to California. Avoiding travel can reduce the risk of virus transmission and bringing the virus back to California.

Many traditional holiday activities can be high-risk for spreading viruses as multiple households come together. The greatest risk of spreading COVID-19 comes from convening larger groups, so it is important to keep gatherings small. Consider alternative ways to celebrate or modify holiday traditions. Both the [CDC](#) and the [County of San Diego](#) offer suggestions for safer ways to celebrate the winter holidays.

We appreciate the careful and considerate choices you're making to minimize your risk and prioritize the protection of our shared community. On behalf of the entire CSUSM community, we wish you a safe and healthy holiday season.

If you have questions about this guidance, you are welcome to email [covid19@csusm.edu](mailto:covid19@csusm.edu).

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