



Dear campus community,

As we close out the year and look ahead to the spring semester, we must share a new and important update. Given the rapid spread of the Omicron variant in our state, today the California State University Office of the Chancellor [announced an update to the systemwide COVID-19 vaccine policy](#), requiring all students, faculty and staff to receive a COVID-19 vaccine booster once they become eligible.

For our campus, community members must be in compliance with the revised policy by Jan. 18 (in alignment with the start of spring semester) **or as soon as they are eligible under CDC and state guidelines**. This applies to all enrolled students and current employees.

*“Vaccination, including a booster when eligible, remains our most effective strategy against infection and severe disease. This is particularly important in light of the rapid rise of cases of COVID-19 throughout the state and nation as the Omicron variant spreads. Implementing the booster requirement now will help mitigate the potential spread of the variant on campuses as they repopulate in January after the winter break.”*

**CSU Chancellor Joseph I. Castro**

In early January, more information will be provided about the spring semester as we continue to monitor the evolving situation and stay in close communication with medical experts and public-health officials. If circumstances warrant additional adjustments, we will communicate with you in as timely a manner as possible.

**Given the urgency of this message and with the winter closure beginning on Thursday, we ask that you read this message carefully, as there are certain actions you may need to take no later than Jan. 18, 2022.**

Please reach out to [CSUSMasOne@csusm.edu](mailto:CSUSMasOne@csusm.edu) if you have questions. Students may text #vax to the [CougarBot](#) for quick answers and instructions on uploading records.

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### Who Is Eligible for the COVID-19 Booster?

The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention strongly recommends](#) COVID-19 vaccine booster shots for everyone ages 16 and older.

You are eligible for a booster if you received your second dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine six or more months ago, or the Johnson & Johnson vaccine two or more months ago. You can receive any vaccine as your booster – it does not have to be the same vaccine as your original series.

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### What Do You Need to Do Next?

**Are you eligible but still need to receive the booster?**

- Find a booster clinic near you through [www.vaccines.gov](http://www.vaccines.gov).

**Have you already received your COVID-19 vaccine booster?**

- **Students:** Upload booster documentation into the Student Health Services portal no later than Tuesday, Jan. 18, 2022:  
[https://csusm.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_71IZThwi6cILDHE](https://csusm.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_71IZThwi6cILDHE)
- **Employees:** Upload booster documentation through the CSUSM as One website link no later than Tuesday, Jan. 18, 2022:  
<https://www.csusm.edu/csusmasone/plans/employee-vax.html>
- Please note that represented employees will not be subject to the booster requirement until the CSU concludes its meet-and-confer process with its labor unions.

**Are you waiting to be eligible for a vaccine booster (it has been less than six months since you received your second Pfizer or Moderna vaccine or it has been less than two months since you received your Johnson & Johnson vaccine)?**

- Get your booster shot as soon as you are eligible, depending on the timing of your initial vaccine series.
- Individuals will be required to get the vaccine booster by Jan. 18 or within 30 days of being eligible based on your last vaccine dose, whichever is later.
- When you have received your booster, submit your documentation as soon as possible using one of the above links.

**Do you have an approved COVID-19 vaccine exemption on file?**

- If you previously submitted and received approval for a COVID-19 vaccine exemption on medical or religious grounds, no new action is required. All individuals with an approved exemption must continue to test weekly at the on-campus clinic located in the Clarke Field House or at the CSUSM at Temecula testing site.

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### Compliance Reporting

This spring, CSUSM will provide faculty with a mechanism to view real-time data on their students' compliance status through the class roster in PeopleSoft. With the new added dimension of the booster requirement, we are working quickly to have this information ready. More information will be available for faculty before the start of the spring semester.

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### On-Campus Testing Requirement to Continue

Students and employees who are not fully vaccinated (including those who have an approved vaccine exemption and those who are eligible for but have not yet received their booster) are required to test at least once a week if they come to campus or participate in any university-sponsored activity (on campus or off).

Students and employees must test at the Clarke Field House or CSUSM at Temecula campus locations to be in compliance. These tests are free and fast (little to no wait time), and results are ready within 24 hours. View the CSUSM Testing Center hours of operation [online](#). Testing is available over winter break.

Please note: Testing at the county-operated clinic in Lot B does NOT comply with the testing requirement. Individuals who fail to complete their required weekly testing will be restricted from accessing on-campus services and attending in-person classes until their testing records have been updated.

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### Masks Still Required Indoors on Campus

Mask-wearing is an essential element of our safety and health protocols, and all members of the CSUSM community must continue to wear their masks indoors regardless of vaccination status.

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### Thank You

We know that, at this point in the pandemic, so many of us are feeling fatigued by the uncertainty of the virus' trajectory and ever-changing protocols and policies. We've learned a lot through this time, and it has taken every one of us to keep moving forward and to support the health and vitality of our community. Thank you for all you've done and continue to do in this time of COVID – we will make the spring semester a success, together, keeping health and safety at the forefront.

As a reminder, we will communicate again in early January with additional information about the spring semester. Please send your questions to [CSUSMasOne@csusm.edu](mailto:CSUSMasOne@csusm.edu). We wish you a safe and healthy winter break.

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