Dear CSUSM community,

With classes and campus events back in full swing, we hope your fall semester is off to an excellent and successful start. Please see below for the latest COVID-19 updates, reminders and resources.

**Masking**

As a reminder, the temporary masking requirement in instructional spaces that was put in place for the first two weeks of classes will be lifted, as scheduled, at the end of the day on Friday, Sept. 9.

Masks remain recommended in all indoor campus spaces and are required in Student Health & Counseling Services due to state requirements for medical settings in California.

Free surgical and KN95 masks are available to all members of our campus community. Several pickup locations are available across campus. N95 masks are also available following training and a proper fitting.

**New COVID-19 Boosters Soon Available**

Our region will soon receive new COVID-19 boosters that target multiple strains of the virus, including the original COVID-19 virus and BA.4 and BA.5 Omicron subvariants. Your health care provider can provide information about the availability of the new booster. Availability at county vaccine events will be updated on the County of San Diego’s website, and appointments can be made through the state’s My Turn system soon. Some local pharmacies – including Walgreens and CVS – are also making appointments available.

These new boosters are an important resource in ongoing prevention efforts, and we encourage those who are eligible to receive one (the Pfizer/BioNTech bivalent booster is for those ages 12 and older, while the Moderna bivalent booster is for those ages 18 and older).

**Reporting and Testing**

Please be aware that all positive cases within our campus community should be reported through the online form to our COVID Case Management Team. This helps our team
provide follow-up resources for individuals who test positive, share timely exposure notifications, update dashboards, and reduce the spread of COVID-19 within our campus community. If you have questions about COVID protocols or need public health advice, you are encouraged to email the CCMT at covidcasereporting@csusm.edu.

Free PCR testing continues to be available on campus through the county-operated COVID testing clinic in lower Lot B off Craven Road. The walk-up clinic is open seven days a week for all members of our campus community, as well as the public. Results are often available within 24 hours.

Rapid antigen testing kits have been available on campus since Monday, Aug. 29. Students can request tests through Student Health & Counseling Services, and employees can request tests through the Covered Cougar Distribution Center. When possible, employees are encouraged first to request at-home tests from their insurance provider, helping ensure that the campus supply of testing kits is readily available to our students.

We will continue to update the COVID-19 dashboard to keep our campus community informed of current cases. Additional helpful links, including access to past communications and current exposure protocols, can be found on the CSUSM as One resource website.

**Vaccinations and Exemptions**

While mandated surveillance testing is no longer required for individuals with medical or religious exemptions, all students and employees must meet the requirements of the CSU COVID-19 vaccination policy to study or work at any of the 23 campuses in the CSU system, including CSUSM. This policy requires all individuals to provide their vaccination and booster record to the university or have an approved medical or religious exemption on file. An incomplete record is a code of conduct violation and subject to disciplinary action, which will jeopardize an individual's ability to study or work at CSUSM.

**Additional COVID-19 Prevention Efforts**

The university has taken specific measures to improve the air quality and flow in all campus buildings, as well as ongoing monitoring and weekly filter checks. All HVAC filters have been upgraded to meet the highest filtration efficiency possible for pandemic-level targets. HVAC systems also are pulling maximum outside air into the vents, and operating hours have been extended to better flush systems before and after occupancy.

**Caring for Each Other**

Remember, if you’re not feeling well, stay home and test. Report any positive cases and help prevent further spread. Continue to monitor your health and mitigate risks through your daily actions and personal health decisions. Together, we’ll continue to navigate any new complexities we face. On behalf of our campus community, thank you for prioritizing your health and wellness, and for considering the safety and needs of others.

If you have any questions or need help navigating health resources on campus, our team is here to help at csusmasone@csusm.edu.