Hello faculty and staff,

This time of year is always a busy and celebratory season for our campus as we enter the final weeks of the spring semester and begin to honor the achievements of our graduating class. We hope in these moments that you can pause to reflect on your important role in our students’ success and our collective work. Thank you for navigating all the complexities of change that we’ve experienced together.

This is also a pivotal time of planning and preparation as our returning students begin enrolling in their fall classes. As we look ahead to summer session and the fall semester, we want to share some updates about masking and course modalities.

**Lifting of the Mask Mandate Starting with the Summer Session**

Starting at the beginning of summer session on Monday, June 6, masking will no longer be required in instructional spaces. The university is moving forward with plans to make masking optional, but not required, for the fall semester, as well.

The decision to lift the mask mandate starting with summer session follows regional and campus data as case rates continue to trend downward and impacts on our local health care system have lessened. During this more endemic phase, it’s important to remember that if local conditions change and public health officials determine that masking is once again needed, a mask requirement would be reinstated on campus for specific periods of time. Masks must continue to be worn in Student Health & Counseling Services, as face coverings are currently required in all medical settings in California.

CSUSM will continue to provide free KN95 and surgical masks for any member of our campus community who would like one. N95 respirators are available to employees following training. Mask stations will continue to be available and stocked at the main entrances of most buildings, as well as available for pick up from Covered Cougar Distribution Center. University leadership is also exploring the funding and operational plans to continue to offer our on-campus testing center for the fall semester.

While we know this announcement is welcome news for some who have been eager to reach this milestone, we also recognize that it may trigger anxieties for others. In all our interactions, may we remember that we are one university community. Thank you for extending kindness and care to one another as we begin this next transition. If you have questions, please email our team through CSUSMasOne@csusm.edu.

**Registering for Classes with Confidence**

Next week, course enrollment will open for the fall semester for our students. Thank you to our faculty, staff and college leadership for working together to build a schedule with our students’ success at the forefront of those decisions. This fall, more than 80% of classes will be offered in person. To allow our students to register for classes with confidence in their selections, the course schedule, including the instruction mode, is not expected to change.

As part of our transition into a more endemic phase, we are communicating with students as they register for fall classes that they should plan to participate in the instructional mode as noted in the schedule. Modality accommodations are not expected, and we will continue to share that expectation with students.

**Together in Cougar Spirit**

We know how hard it has been to navigate the ever-changing complexities of a pandemic while longing for normalcy in your daily life and work. Our Cougar community – which includes you, as one of our valued employees – has shown such extraordinary resilience and true grit. We hope you’ll take a moment to reflect on all that we’ve overcome together. Thank you for your leadership and your commitment to our students!